

Failure of Man = Law of Pardon

When God created all things, His intent was for man to love Him enough to choose to serve Him!

With the creation of the “Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil”, the importance of choice became a crucial determination in the future of man. The ability of man to repent, realizing his bad choice, and to choose to return to serve God, was an option.

Pardon was a decision on God’s part 1st, showing His love for mankind. His mercy and love motivated Him to offer pardon, but sacrifices must be made!

The question is:

“Will YOU do what GOD REQUIRES to be forgiven, to OBEY & SERVE HIM?”

Man Failed!!

- As we look at the history of mankind in scripture, we not only can see God's intention and purpose in the creation, a man devoted to serving God, but we see man's failure to be that man.
 - Ex. Tower of Babel – God has been telling mankind to populate the earth, and mankind stayed in one area instead.
 - Rebellion was apparent with man.
 - The Flood – By this time, Gen. 6:5, man was wicked, and the imaginations of his heart was evil continually.
 - The divided kingdom – These were filled with kings that each successor was more evil than the predecessor.
 - **So man failed in being what God intended him to be!**
- There is hope!
 - Man could repair himself with the knowledge of “good” from the same tree of the knowledge of evil. And there was the “Tree of Life”. We would have to choose to apply ourselves to it. That was the best we could do under the O.T. There was pardon under His terms.
 - After the sin, He set things in motion, because it became necessary with sin in the world.

Journey from Perfect Man to Forgiven Man

- God made man in His own image and His likeness. Gen. 1:26,27
 - Reviewed His work, “It was Good”.
 - He was pleased with those “good” and rewarded them.
 - Noah and family, Job, Abraham, Isaac, Enoch, Elijah, etc.
 - God gave His chosen people, Israel, who committed to be faithful to Him, a system of law, to know how to live and please Him.
 - Law established the knowledge of sin, Rom. 3:20; 7:7
 - Law wasn’t the problem though, for Elijah lived it faithfully.
 - Man’s flesh wasn’t the problem either, Rom. 8:3.
 - Problem is: “Who do I love?” Mt. 6:
 - **We have forgotten “Why am I here?” --- To Serve the Creator!!**
 - **We needed a New Covenant, New Sacrifice, to be a New Man/Creation! Jer. 31:30-31; Heb. 8-10**
 - **But we are Lost in SIN!**

Man Needs Pardoned/Forgiveness from God!

- Man can't recover from his sin by himself. (even if never sinned again– Lost)
 - Ex. David – His sin with Bathsheba– Adultery – Murder—Grief – Absalom (Psalms)
- The origin of the knowledge of sin also contained the knowledge of hope/pardon. (Tree of the knowledge of good and evil)
 - Specific law of sacrifice began with Adam & Eve; Cain and Abel.
 - Patriarchs were committed to sacrifice for their sin to be pleased by God.
 - View of terrible calamities were due to sin, so offer sacrifice, even if didn't know what the sin was– Job.
 - Law of Moses – Priest appointed to offer sacrifice for the sins of the people.
 - Priests must cleanse themselves first.
 - Yearly sacrifice – to remember the sin committed.
 - Animal sacrifice wasn't sufficient to remove sin!

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Sacrifice of a Perfect Man= Pardon

- Animals don't sin, so why would they be punished? Man does! Blood for Blood.
- Jesus was the Perfect Man, for the Perfect Sacrifice! Perfect Covenant! 2 Cor. 5:21
 - No sin— not worthy of death! His death was a sacrifice He chose. Heb. 4:15; Acts 2: 24.
 - Being the sacrifice, He authorized how people would benefit from His sacrifice. He gives the law/credentials for being pardoned. Heb. 9:16,17.
 - This had to be decided before the foundations of the world/universe.
 - Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil implied pardon, along with the curse of the Serpent/Satan. Gen. 3:15
 - All according to the Father's design: Eph. 1
- **God fearing men sought pardon, to be freed from sins' bondage.**

How Can I Be Pardoned?

- Not under the Patriarchal law of pardon, nor the Law of Moses could there be pardon.
- Pardoned Christ's law of pardon, thanks to God's Grace, and obedience to the new law of promise, Jer. 31:31-34.
- What must I do?: Acts 2:37– They believed....but weren't forgiven/saved.
 - Faith is a must- Heb. 11:6. But faith is to hear and obey, Rom. 10:17. Supplies our motive to please Him/ to love Him.
 - Repent or perish– Lk. 13:3,5; 2 Cor. 7:10. Now we know and we start doing as God says. TRUST & OBEY!
 - Confession of my Faith: Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:37. Christ will confirm my status: Mt. 10:32.
 - Baptism – Mk. 16:16 – Believe + Baptism= Saved vs. Believe not + Baptism = Condemned. Romans 6 – must crucify the old man that lived in sin. Bury him, and raise up a new man, created in Christ (His image/life). New Birth of John 3: water and spirit.

• **A Christian is born!**

How to be a Christian:

- Sit down with Christ's Word! Learn it and show your love for God by doing it. Duet. 6: 5, 10, 12. Luke 10:27 HE must be 1st in your life!
- Live His life in His place (Faith & Repent), crucify yourself and your desires (Baptism): Mk. 8:34.
- FOCUS on serving God! Follow Christ's example. Jn. 10:25-38, 14:12.
- LIVE AND DO! IF sin, seek forgiveness! 1 Cor. 10:13; Jms. 5:19; 1 Jn. 1:9.
- We CAN remain true to God, Rev. 1:5; 2:10.