



What Does God Think?

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This marks the first time my Sunday blog post was written on Tuesday. I constantly pray for sightings of God's light, hence I look for them. This week's happened on Tuesday - on Facebook, nonetheless. I saw this post and commented, "I'm sure it's pounding right now." Later the post appeared on my newsfeed again, so I read others' comments. The opinions were split - some said yes, others said no. Those who said no, cited the fact that Jesus shed His blood for our sins, so God expected all of our sin years ago and took care of them through the blood of Jesus. Well, true, but...

"I wonder sometimes if we ever give God a headache."

I agree that Jesus' blood washes away the guilt of our sins, that we can be forgiven and spend eternity in heaven with the Father. It concerns me, though, that some seem to think that our current sins don't grieve the heart of God. I wonder if some people think that because Jesus died in order that our slate be wiped clean, that it doesn't matter how much sin we continue to add to the slate. I believe Paul addressed this in the book of Romans.

Romans 5

6 When we were utterly helpless, with no way of escape, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners who had no use for him. **7** Even if we were good, we really wouldn't expect anyone to die for us, though, of course, that might be barely possible. **8** But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. **9** And since by his blood he did all this for us as sinners, how much more will he do for us now that he has declared us not guilty? Now he will save us from all of God's wrath to come.

Romans 6

Well then, shall we keep on sinning so that God can keep on showing us more and more kindness and forgiveness? **2** Of course not! Should we keep on sinning when we don't have to? **3** For sin's power over us was broken when we became Christians and were baptized to become a part of Jesus Christ; through his death the power of your sinful nature was shattered. **4** Your old sin-loving nature was buried with him by baptism when he died; and when God the Father, with glorious power, brought him back to life again, you were given his wonderful new life to enjoy.

Of course, Paul is speaking of those who believe, but he clearly says we should not continue with our sin because we know that we are forgiven. Paul tells us in Romans 3:23 that "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Even after we have accepted Christ into our hearts we will continue to sin. The fact that we know and acknowledge our forgiveness through Christ, should cause us to have a greater awareness of our sin and a desire to sin less frequently as God has already shown us His great love.

There is someone I, historically, have shared gossip with and we have had some laughs. God has been working on me about that habit, as it does not please Him for me to engage in those sorts of conversations. A few weeks ago, I spoke to this person and shared a fact, with no intention of it becoming a gossip session, but because, historically, I have gossiped with this person, my statement of fact was the introduction to a gossip session. I felt the Holy Spirit's disappointment in me, immediately! All I could do was end the call quickly, with, "hey, yeah, I gotta go. I'll talk to you later." I felt bad about this for days. It was sin. Sin grieves the heart of God. He had delivered me from that sin, Christ died for that sin, but here I was doing it again. This type of behavior grieves the heart of God and causing the proverbial "headache."

When we turn on the news, or login to our social media, interact with friends and family sin is there, we indulge in sin. Honestly, it seems as if we sometimes invent new ways to sin. The Bible gives us many examples of God's destruction due to sin. After the great flood, Scripture tells us, "**21**The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done." (Gen. 8:21) He said He would not bring destruction in a way only He can, but it's not because we don't deserve it. We deserve destruction, but it is the blood of Jesus that blocks it.

We must each become aware of our sin and repent. To repent means to 1) acknowledge it, 2) be sincere in our remorse, and 3) stop doing it. We constantly call on the name of God, but in the presence of sin, He will not be. We ask Him to change our circumstances, but we first must view sin as He does, and repent. Amen.