

Of all the countless religions of the world, only Christianity offers complete forgiveness. Only the unchanging God of the Bible, the Old and the New Testament, offers the free gift of forgiveness to those who repent ( change your mind, change direction ) , and believe in Jesus Christ. Not only does He forgive, but He forgives forever. Psalm 86:5 says, " For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon Thee." And, in Psalm 103: 11,12,it says, " For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the East is from the West, so far has He removed our transgressions ( another word for sin ) from us." By the way, before we move on, I want to talk a little about the word "fear." When I first saw this some years ago, I asked why I should fear the One who is supposed to love me unconditionally? The answer of course lies in the limitations of the English language in translation from the Greek and Hebrew texts. In the original Hebrew, the word for fear was yare, which when used to refer to a person in an exalted position, meant "standing in awe" or " reverence for." Back to Psalm 103, it says that our sins (transgressions) have been removed for those who call upon the Lord. This is plain speech. " Removed " means just that. Gone, disappeared, done away with. It means that when we choose to accept the free gift of salvation, that very instant, God takes out that stinky old garbage (our old self, our old hardened heart, our grief, and our old sins ) and throws them in the can and screws the lid down tight. In Hebrews 8:12, it says " For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." And in Hebrews 10: 17, God is saying," And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." Are we getting the picture here? Almighty God is choosing to forget our "garbage". And we can take Him at His Word! And, He chooses to do this for us when we accept what Jesus Christ has done for you, me, and all of mankind, past, present, and future. Jesus didn't go to the cross because He had nothing better to do that day! He paid for our bail out of jail, at no cost to us. Once and for all! No need for a shower, or a clean suit , or Hail Marys. I know that for some this is old ground but I think it bears repeating.

So, what now? I think I'll put the cookies down on the bottom shelf where I can get to them. For a believer, God has done the "garbage run" for us and put it out of His Mind. However, being only human, sometimes we like to pry that lid open and either add to that smelly pile, or take some with us for compost or whatever. At some point, some folks become convinced that because they've been rootin' around in the garbage ( your old self ) for too long, that they're beyond God's forgiveness. That's just not true! Check out Lamentations 3:22,23. It says," It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed ( destroyed ) , because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Thy Faithfulness." We need to remember that every day we can hand God our "garbage" and ask Him to take it out for us. And oh, by the way, remember that sack full that we picked up back in the day, that weighed 20lbs then and now is 5 times that? It's time to give it the boot!! Remember that God Loves you, no matter what your zip code is or more importantly, what your history is.

Proverbs 3:5,6 says, " Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight."

2nd Corinthians 5:17 says," Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; Behold, new things have come."

#### "COMING ATTRACTION"

The biggest show of all is coming to town -- God is the Producer – the Holy Spirit is the Director -- and Jesus is the Superstar -- The Worldwide Production called "THE KINGDOM OF GOD "

You'll no doubt want to be in the balcony for this one!!

Wanted: More bikers in Heaven!!

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