

Revelation 20:9, 12-15

⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them...

¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

B. Let us Take Care

Hebrews 3:12-15

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you *an evil, unbelieving heart*, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," *that none of you may be hardened* by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, **do not harden your hearts** as in the rebellion."

Exodus 10:17

How to Really Ask for God's Forgiveness

September 26, 2010

Sermon Outline

Notes

I. Introduction

A. Hard Heart or Fear/Faith? (Heb. 3:12-15)

Proverbs 28:14

Blessed is the one who **fears the Lord** always, but whoever *hardens his heart* will fall into calamity.

Exodus 9:30 (Hail)

But as for you and your servants, *I know that you do not yet fear the Lord God.*

B. False Repentance

Exodus 10:17

Now therefore, **forgive my sin**, please, only this once, and plead with the LORD your God only to remove this death from me.

Proverbs 28:13

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who **confesses and forsakes** them will obtain mercy.

Key Idea

True repentance is a gift from our Creator enabling us to humbly acknowledge the truth of our utter need for the life-giving, love & mercy of God.

II. The Creator

A. Plead with the LORD **your** God

B. The LORD is not a God He is **the** God!

Romans 1:18-19

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness *suppress the truth*. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Romans 9:17

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "*For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.*"

C. Who Hardens Pharaoh's Heart? (19x Ex. 4-14)

(Exodus 4:21; 7:3; 7:13; 7:14; 7:22; 8:15; 8:19; 8:32; 9:7; 9:12; 9:34; 9:35; 10:1; 10:20; 10:27; 11:10; 14:4; 14:8; 14:17)

"That Pharaoh *did* harden his own heart the Scriptures expressly affirm, but they *also* declare that THE LORD hardened his heart too, and clearly this is not one and the same thing, or the two *different* 'expressions would not have been employed. Our duty is to believe *both*- statements, but to attempt to show the philosophy of their reconciliation is probably, as another has said, "to attempt to fathom infinity". ... Are we to deny it because we cannot explain the way in which God did it? On the same ground we might reject the doctrine of the Trinity. I may be asked how God could in any sense harden a man's heart without Him being the Author of sin. But the most assured belief of the fact does not require that an answer should be given by me to this question. If God has not explained the matter (and He has not), then it is not for us to feign to be wise above what is written. I believe many things recorded in Scripture not because I can *explain* their rationale, but because I know that God cannot lie." - A. W. Pink

Pasted from <http://www.pbministries.org/books/pink/Gleanings_Exodus/exodus_10.htm>

2 Timothy 2:24-26

²⁴ And *the Lord's servant* must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. **God may perhaps grant them repentance** leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

III. Humility/Fear: Knowing Our Place

- A. Creatures
- B. Sinners (Pharaoh misses this Truth)

Exodus 10:17

...**forgive my sin**, please, only this once...

Psalm 51:4-7 (Psalm 51:1-12)

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

1. Sin is personal to God!
2. We sin because we are sinners...
3. God requires heart transformation (Love God...)

IV. Repent & Believe the Gospel

Luke 5:32

I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

Mark 1:15

...The time is fulfilled, and the **kingdom of God** is at hand; *repent and believe in the gospel.*

V. Beware the Fate of the Hard-Hearted

A. The Hard-Hearted Learn to Fear too Late

Exodus 14:24-25

²⁴ And in the morning watch *the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud* looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵ clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "*Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.*"