

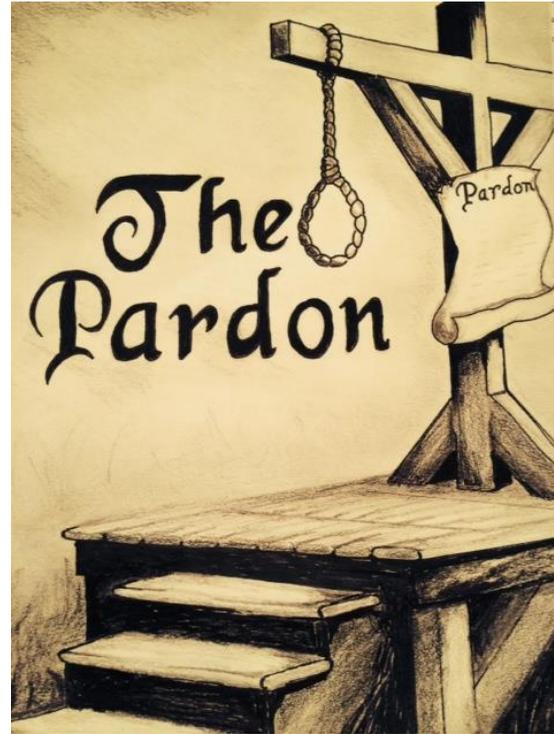
Let's Pray

Dear LORD Jesus, I confess that You are the Son of God and I submit to You and make You LORD of my life. I confess that I have sinned against You and I repent of my lying stealing, hatred, deceit, bitterness, adultery, being critical, grumbling, lust, murder, blasphemy, drunkenness, and sexual immorality, anger gossip and slander that went out of my mouth, that exposed that my heart was full of evil. LORD, I repent of these sins and any other the Holy Spirit has convicted me of. I plead the blood and the finished work of Calvary over my life. LORD, I choose with my will to forgive those who have hurt me, and please empower me to make restitution to those I have hurt and offended. LORD Jesus, I come to Your throne of mercy asking that You wash me with the water of the Word. Clothe me with Your goodness and give me eyes to see, ears to hear and a heart to perceive Your unsearchable riches. And I submit to a new law, the law of love, and of faith in Christ Jesus. Amen!

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The Pardon

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In 1829, a man named George Wilson robbed the U.S. Mail, harming a Federal Employee. Later he was caught, found guilty and sentenced to die for his crime. Some friends intervened on his behalf and was able to speak to the then President of the United States, Andrew Jackson. President Jackson granted Wilson a Pardon. But when he was informed of this Pardon, he refused to accept it. An appeal was sent back to President Jackson. He, not knowing what to do, turned to the U.S. Supreme Court, for an answer. The court gave this ruling: "A Pardon is a piece of paper, the value of which depends upon its acceptance by the person implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that a person under the sentence of death would refuse to accept a pardon, but if it

is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must die."

The sentence of death was carried out upon George Wilson even though a pardon was lying in the sheriff's office. It is the same in the Kingdom of God. A pardon is not a pardon until it is received.

George Wilson broke the law of God and man. In the court room the judge gives instruction to the jury: "**THIS COURT IS NOT A PLACE OF MERCY AND COMPASSION BUT JUSTICE, AND WE MUST APPLY IT EQUALLY TO ALL.**" It is the same with the Law of God. So let's start in the beginning. When God Almighty came down on Mt. Sinai, He delivered to mankind, His Laws: The Ten Commandments. These laws are absolute; applying justice equally to all mankind.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

(Exodus 20: 1-17)

- I. ***"Thou shalt have none other gods before me."*** An idol is the place you put your trust, time and resources. **Jesus has to be your principal purpose in life!**
- II. ***"Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God"*** How could this possibly apply to 21st Century America? We don't

carve little images and bow down and worship them; but we let pleasure and entertainment, consume our every thought and action instead of God.

III. ***Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.*** God does not want us to disrespect His name by using it jokingly in our conversation and certainly by not using it in cursing. We call ourselves Christians and act different from the nature of Christ; we are taking His name in vain!

IV. ***"Keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God had commanded thee.."*** This commandment is the object of much argument. I'm not sure of all that it means in the natural, however let's look at the spiritual meaning of God's commandment. In chapters three and four, the writer of Hebrews continues to relate how God's people forfeited the land of promised rest because of their disobedience. He uses the words, disobedience and unbelief, interchangeably. They are inseparable; true belief will result in obedience. The people did not believe God; so they were destroyed, never knowing the fulfillment of His promise to them. ***(Hebrews 4:9-11)***

V. **“Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee: that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”** Many of us have judged our parents because they didn’t live up to our graven image of good, loving parents. Our judgments against them bring God’s righteous judgment down on us, and we find ourselves making the same mistakes and committing the same sins they did. Their sins are “visited” upon us, our children, our children’s children . . .

VI. **“Thou shalt not kill.”** God judges the deeds done in our body, but he also judges the motives of our hearts. Jesus said, **“You have heard that it was said to the men of old, ‘You shall not kill, and who ever kills shall be liable to and unable to escape the punishment imposed by the court. But I say to you that everyone who continues to be angry with his brother shall be liable to and unable to escape the punishment imposed by the Sanhedrin and whoever says, ‘You cursed fool (you empty-headed idiot)!’ shall be liable to and unable to escape the hell (Gehenna) of fire.” (Matthew 5:21-23 Amplified Bible)**

VII. **“Neither shalt thou commit adultery.”** **“Ye have heard it said, ‘thou shalt not commit adultery’: but I say unto you, that everyone who so much as looks at a woman with evil desire for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:27-28 Amplified Bible)**

VIII. **“Neither shalt thou steal.”** God speaks of sure judgment which shall come upon a thief.

IX. **“Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbor.”** We have a final admonition in Revelation 22:14-15: **“Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. (The Amplified Bible says, “everyone who loves and deals with a falsehood, untruth, error, deception, cheating”.)**

X. **“Thou shalt not covet . . .”** Coveting is wishing for and delighting in anything God has not given you. Coveting can easily cause you to break every other commandment.

Now let’s examine yourself.

Have you broken the Ten Commandments? You do know that **law-breakers are under the sentence of hell**, by the law of God, that eternal rule of righteousness that a Holy God has fixed between Himself and mankind that cries out for justice and punishment of sin and rebellion.

Charles Finney offers a fearful picture of hell. He says: “when my last child died, the struggle was long and agonizing, and the anguish and nervous exhaustion I experienced was heart rending. I cried mightily to God, “Please relieve this dreadful agony!” Suppose a poor man cannot die, he lingers in the agony of death a month; a year; five years; or ten years, till all and his friends and loved ones

are broken down and fall into their graves, under the horror of the scene, but still the poor man cannot die. He outlives one generation, then another, and another. One hundred years he is dying in mortal agony and yet he comes no nearer to the end. This is a feeble illustration of the awful second death.

Whatever horrors await the lost soul, one thing is certain, he will have no hope of ever escaping. Once he has heard the pronouncement “Depart from me accursed one” (Matthew 25:41), his doom has been sealed.

Hebrews 9:27 **“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment!”**

Imagine yourself before the Judgment Seat, in your sins, and hearing that dreadful cry “Guilty” as it rings down the Corridor of your mind, stirring memory of every broken promise, every wrong deed as your own words and actions stand witness against you!

Since Jesus did not abolish the law (Matthew 5:17) then what does the law do today? The law stands today to bring judgment upon all sin. The law brings the wrath of God (Romans 4:15) The law brings a curse. (Galatians 3:13) The law is a ministry of death (II Corinthians 3:7), and the law is a ministry of condemnation (II Corinthians 3:9). In Galatians 5:19 is a list of the works of the flesh that is under the curse of the law, “Now the deeds of the flesh (the nature of Satan) are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, (Verse 20) idolatry sorcery,

enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes dissensions, factions. (Verse 21) Envy, drunkenness, carousing and other things like these of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.”

But God being rich in mercy and grace, at the proper time sent His Son, Jesus Christ to justify; to meet every demand; to pay in His own Blood, for our sins and take upon His body on the Cross, all the Curse of the Law and has become a pardon for all mankind.

Are you ready to surrender to your Creator? “For there is one God, and mediator between God and men; the man Christ Jesus.” (I Timothy 2:5) Jesus said, “you must be born again.” (John 3:5-6). The first step is a deep repentance and searching of the heart and forsaking of sin. In (Romans 10:9-13) “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as LORD , and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes” resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says “whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same LORD is LORD of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him, for “whoever will call upon the name on the LORD will be saved.”

Do you receive the pardon that is in Christ Jesus?