

RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN

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Liberty

www.graceandsanity.org
Grace and Sanity Ministries, October 2008

The United States of America is the land of ultimate liberty. Our society permits anyone to be whatever they want to be. We don't kill heretics anymore. Here is the maximum liberty to choose. Everybody can do what is right in his own eyes. Instead of decrying abortion, homosexuality, or whatever else is the sin of the day, we must see that this land, the United States of America, is truly a land set up by God. Set up similar to a filter. To be sure, abortion and sodomy are sins. Homosexuality! Abortion! Oh, what sins! I tell you, I'm not impressed. People beat other people over the head because of a particular sin. But those are only two among many, very many. The most subtle and unnoticeable of sins, are the sins of the mind. Underneath a veneer of righteousness lies a rottenness that precludes integrity. And that rottenness can only be integrated under Christ, the complete payment for our sins. Otherwise, the only other way to deal with the sins of the mind is denial. That is not a solution, of course. Not only does it not take care of the problem, but denial also causes many physical ailments.

The problem is that there is no way to admit who we are unless we are completely sure of the pardon. Am I responsible for my dreams? What if I dream of fornication, or stealing, or murdering? When things are out of my conscious control, am I liable for those sins? If those sins are out of my control, I should not be held responsible. If I don't intend to think about these things, am I still accountable? Well, yes, though I don't know about them, or cannot control, they reveal my true nature. I am absolutely accountable. The Law has provided sacrifices to be made for sins we don't know about. So, if there is a sacrifice that can be made for sins I don't know about, that means I am accountable and I have to come up with that payment, which has been made. I only have to take that payment and present it to the authority. Numbers 16:27-28: "And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for a sin offering." "And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the LORD, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him." I love that final expression: "And it shall be forgiven him." It doesn't say, "It *may* be forgiven him," or, "It *might* be forgiven him," or, "It *could* be forgiven him." It just says: "It *shall* be forgiven him."

There is no doubt about it, there is no qualification in the statement. The forgiveness is dispensed upon presentation of the price. The price is Christ. How deep is the covering of God? How big is the uttermost God talks about? He says that he saves to the uttermost. How big is that? Is my uttermost bigger than his uttermost? Or could it be that his uttermost is bigger than my uttermost? A superficial assessment might lead someone to conclude that perhaps God, who is eternal, might, I say, might, have an uttermost bigger than mine, who am a tender

grass on a rooftop that withers as soon as the sun heats up. I am a vapour of dew, visibly by a few inches and then is gone. Is God bigger than I am? I think so. When he asked me, Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?, I was smitten. He shut my mouth.

What all this means is that the uttermost of my wickedness is covered under the uttermost of his grace, unmerited favour. The closer you get to God the more you will see your impurity. That is as it should be. His bright light illuminates, reaches into the darkest recesses of your being. If you make a true assessment of your personality, without telling anybody, of course, you will find you are corrupt to the core, in the most secret places of your mind you are corrupt. How can anyone stand eye to eye with God? We are not his equal. Only an extreme condescension in the part of God can make him available to us. Who can appreciate the love of God? Those who know they don't deserve it. Those who think they deserve the love of God have no idea of their own corruption. What? Do you think you are going to be Pure, Holy and undefiled if you quit smoking? Or drinking? You don't need Christ for that. One would think that God makes it terribly easy for people to be saved, here it is, Christ, the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Take it and live. Yet, millions, even billions of people will be lost.

So, we are faced with Heaven or Hell. Is Hell real? Is there really a place called Hell? What is it like? Will abortionists and homosexuals get the greatest punishments? Or will rejection of Christ top all other sins? Will the rejection of Christ trigger the fiercest vengeance from God? And don't let anybody think otherwise, God is vengeful. He has said, vengeance is mine. God has given us this land, the U.S.A., where there are no boundaries to what one should believe. You believe in something? Fine. You believe in nothing? Fine. But God has given plenty of warning about Hell, those who will be lost will do so because of unbelief. The opportunity was there, it was simply inattention, dismissal of the warnings. God went through with his promise, he did far more than any should expect. But God will not give eternal life to anyone who is not totally loyal to him. He cannot have a bunch of people with eternal life in Heaven that are going to be disobedient. God is only going to be content with those that come to him out of their own free will. Yes, there is a moment of free will, but it comes way down the road. It is a recognition of his unconditional love, inexplicable love seeing the lot he is dealing with. The movement of free will is, really, one of surrendering our free will to God. It is gradual, it is reluctant, but that's what we do with free will, we use it to rebel or we finally give it up, there is a point of no return, a point of recognition that God is eternal and we are finite, that he should be really angry at us, yet he is opening his arms to us, when he should destroy us.