

God Doesn't Remember

Ponder: Does God have amnesia?

Scripture: "I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more" (Jeremiah 31:34, NKJV).

Christians treasure being forgiven of our sins by God. Six centuries before Jesus was born, God spoke through Jeremiah the prophet about the New Covenant that He would make when the Christ came. Among the wonderful blessings that would accompany the establishment of that covenant was this: "I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more" (Jeremiah 31:34).

That verse is a beautiful example of Hebrew parallelism, where the same point is made in two ways. Iniquity is the same thing as sin, and forgiveness is the same thing as "remember no more."

I've heard people say, no doubt with the best of intentions, that God has forgotten their sins, that He doesn't even have any awareness of those sins. I submit that this is a false concept, and not a really healthy one. Folks, God does not have amnesia! Neither is He unaware of anything. God's understanding is infinite (Psalm 147:5). We commonly speak of God as being "omniscient," which is to say "all-knowing." So no, God has not "forgotten" our sins in the sense of no longer being aware of them.

What, then, is meant by not remembering our sins. Let's look at Psalm 79:8 to see another example of the word "remember" in connection with sin. "Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us." And there is the point – not that God is no longer aware of the sins we've committed, but He doesn't hold those things against us anymore. It's no different than if your child does wrong, you scold them, they repent, and you say, "OK, I forgive you. As far as (I'm concerned, it never happened." That doesn't mean you are no longer aware of what they did; but you don't hold it against them anymore.

Let's be thankful for the blood of Christ that cleanses us from our sins so that God remembers them against us no more!

Song: "Though Your Sins Be As Scarlet"

Prayer: Loving Father, we praise you for your grace and mercy, and for the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from sin. Thank You for not holding our sins against us anymore. In Jesus' name, Amen.