

Biblical Forgiveness

September 7th, 2006

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

This is a most remarkable statement, which came from the lips of our Saviour as well as from the lips of Stephen, who was redeemed and Spirit filled. May our prayer be that we would experience the same and do the same. Unfortunately, we hold grudges and reject one another for many smaller altercations than what Jesus and Stephen endured. Paul, who was greatly moved by the testimony of Stephen at his death, was one who experienced the forgiveness Stephen prayed for (Acts 9). Many who saw to the death of Jesus Christ discovered forgiveness for which Jesus prayed. On the day of Pentecost they cried, “Men and brethren, what shall we do” (Acts 2)? Others, who were steeped in their religious heritage, did not find it in their heart to seek forgiveness on that day of Pentecost. There was no change of their heart; consequently, they were not able to forgive. Those poor souls will see the God they thought they were serving as their Judge. Jesus had no need of repentance, but Stephen did. Stephen related that to avoid that final day of judgement would demand repentance. Since all men are guilty before God, it is necessary to repent. It would seem that Stephen identified all men along with himself as needing to find the place of repentance and thus be qualified to be Spirit filled, which allowed him to be able to forgive those that stoned him to death. To continue in a bitter and unforgiving spirit indicates the very condition that requires repentance, and shows the lack of the fullness of the Holy Spirit of God who enables one to forgive others. The above is the heart of Christianity and is the message that needs to be declared and heeded if one would have the blessings of God upon him and his home and the church. To heed the above will set the stage for a mighty Holy Spirit revival, which is an absolute need

for us in the church before there will be any significant ministry to the rest of the world. May we, with those on the day of Pentecost plead, “Men and brethren what shall we do?” Jv/dV

II Peter 3:9 “The lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

Send your comments and questions and we will, prayerfully seek to get back to you as soon as possible. jandrxdv@nbnet.nb.ca