

September 5th – The Power of Forgiveness

“Come now and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” (Isa. 1:18)

Today’s passage captures the words of Isaiah as He is sharing the Word of God with the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judea. Through the leadership of several ungodly kings, God’s people had done a great deal to incite the wrath of God by disobeying His commands. Isaiah told his fellow Jews that God was going to bring judgment, but that even in the midst of judgment there would be an opportunity for forgiveness.

The Lord invited His people to “reason” with Him. The word could also be translated “judge.” In essence, God is inviting His people to join Him in judging between the fate of a faithful, repentant believer, and an ungodly, rebellious sinner. The fate of those who are willing and obedient will be forgiveness. Even though his/her sins are red as scarlet or crimson – much like a dirty stain on a garment – they shall be washed white as snow or wool. God cleanses us of our sins when we turn to Him!

Yet, the opposite can be said for those who refuse to repent. God says, “If you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword” (Isa. 1:20). God promised that His people would be judged and removed from their land, and so they were by the Babylonians. If God didn’t allow His rebellious people to go unpunished back then, what would lead us to believe He would allow us to go unchecked now? Why not receive the cleansing touch of God that comes through faith in Christ? Once we’ve trusted Him, let’s be sure to keep a close account by seeking His cleansing on a daily basis.