

For in the days before the flood, people were eating, drinking, getting married and giving in marriage; right up to the day Noah entered the ark." They knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and **swept them all away**.

"Be on guard, because you do not know the day your Lord will return."

We all have a lot to answer for. God only knows how many people have been hurt because of our actions and influence. God only knows the pain people have gone through because we did not care enough to help them. And it is not in God's nature to let us go unpunished. How then can He forgive us and act like nothing ever happened? Martin Luther called this a "problem worthy of God".

God answered it on the cross. He came and lived among us and took our punishment for us. He did not punish Jesus instead of us. Jesus and God are "one" (John 14). 2 Corinthians 5 says, "**God was in Christ reconciling the world back to Himself**". In Acts 20 Paul tells fellow Pastors, "**Shepherd the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood.**" God drew the knife across His own heart.

Two Indians, one young and one old, were riding across the Prairie and saw a huge fire coming. Knowing they could not outrun it, the old Indian told the young one to dismount and cover his horse's eyes. They struck their flint stones together and started a small fire. As it spread out, they led their horses over into the burned area. When the oncoming fire got there, the area they burned was now huge and the fire went around them. The old Indian told the young one - "**The fire cannot go where the fire has already been.**"

After my conversion my old sins kept coming back and I doubted my salvation. Nothing brought me peace until one night in prayer, I

got the closest thing to a vision I have ever had. I read Isaiah 52:14 - Chapter 53.

"Many were appalled at Him.

His image was so marred that He did not look like a man; His form did not resemble a human being."

"He was wounded for our transgressions; bruised for our iniquities."

"The Lord **laid on Him** the sins of us all."

"With His stripes we are healed."

"The punishment that brought our peace, was on Him."

"He was like a lamb led to slaughter."

Before my eyes, I saw the hideous sight of the bruised and bleeding Jesus hanging on a cross. He looked like a piece of butchered meat covered in blood. And the words, "**The Lord has laid on Him the sins of us all**" came alive in my mind. I saw my sins as the lashes that created the "stripes". I saw the "fire" of Judgment on Jesus instead of me. I knew all of my sins were off of me and placed on Him.

People today scoff at the idea of judgment. An old farmer who hated the church, loved to disrupt their revival meetings. He would remove the muffler from his tractor and plow close to the church when they were meeting. One day he met the Pastor on the street and said, "Preacher, I'm the guy who plows close to your church when you have revivals. I had the best crops and made more money per acre this November than any farmer around here. What do you think of that? The Pastor said:

"Sir, God does not settle His accounts in November."

Adrian Rogers had the best picture of Judgment Day. He said it is like a man coming out of the restroom in a fine restaurant and bells started ringing and a sign started flashing, "This man did not wash his hands!"