

In 1948, a young man, Caryl Chessman, was convicted of 17 separate charges and sentenced to die in the death chamber. Naturally, he did not want to die. For 12 years he waged a stubborn fight for his life. He secured a number of law books and studied as he had never studied before. His very life depended upon his ability to find some way to escape the death penalty, or at least delay the execution. He tried one legal manoeuvre after another, appealing 42 times, postponing the fearful day when he would lose his life. During this time, he even had time to write a book telling his story and the reason why he thought he should be released. His final appeal was made and turned down. His last chance of pardon had been exhausted. There was no more hope! Down to the last minute he held onto a glimmer of hope that he would be saved. But that failed and he was executed. The courts had found him guilty and the state carried out the sentence.

As we think of this man desperately fighting for every hour of life that he could hold onto, it reminds us of the plight of the sinner without Christ. When we committed the first wrong act, we passed under the sentence of death. If we do not receive mercy and are not pardoned, we will not only die the first death, but will be consumed in the lake of fire at the end of this world's history. The Bible calls this the second death. Life is precious and a man will do almost anything to prolong the few years that he is granted. When we think of eternity, without pain, sorrow, sickness, or death, how much more anxious should we be to make certain we do not lose eternal life. If every person were as earnest in seeking eternal life as Mr. Chessman was in prolonging his earthly life, there would be far more people saved when Christ returns.

1. What is sin? 1 John 3:4 -
Note: All unrighteousness is sin. Every act of rebellion against God and His way of life is sin.
2. How many of the human race have sinned? Romans 3:23 -
3. What has been the result of the entrance of sin into this world?
Romans 5:12
4. What are the wages of sin? Romans 6:23, Revelation 20:14-15 -

5. What does God promise to give us through Jesus Christ?

Romans 6:23 -

Through what means does God intend to take away our sins? John 1:29
7. How does the Lamb of God cleanse us from all sin? Romans 5:6-9 - "While we were yet sinners"
8. What is the cleansing agent used by God to make us clean? 1 John 1:7 -
9. When we fully realise that it was for our sins that Christ died, what will we want to know? Acts 2:36-37 -
10. What must we do before God can cleanse us from sin? Acts 3:19, Acts 2:38 -
11. True repentance will lead us to do what two things? Proverbs 28:13 - a
12. If we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness what does God promise to do? 1 John 1:9 -
13. How complete is the forgiveness that God promises to the penitent? Hebrews 8:12 -
14. How unworthy did Paul feel in his sinful state? 1 Timothy 1:15 -
15. What assurance filled Paul's heart as he neared the end of his life?2 Timothy 4:7-8 -
16. How did Paul tell the jailer that he could receive salvation? Acts 16:22-31 -
(Verse 31)

Paul became a great saint because he recognized that he was a great sinner. He went to the One who could change him to become like his Master. At the time of his conversion he was on the way to Damascus to kill the Christians there. He thought he had been doing the will of God, but soon realised that he had been doing the work of the enemy. When he was shown his error, he was willing to let God change him. He made a complete surrender of self. He was willing to let God show him the way that he should go. Like Paul, we must recognise our sinfulness and repent of our sins. When we realize that it was those sins that broke the heart of our Saviour and caused His death upon the Cross of Calvary, we will come to Him for cleansing and His blood will make us white as snow.

If you feel your need of forgiveness, why not come to Christ this very day? Confess your sins and let God lift the load of guilt and shame. He will freely forgive and forget your sins. He invites you to come. "Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." **Isaiah 1:18**.

A simple, sincere prayer, offered from a heart burdened with guilt, will bring freedom from the sense of that guilt. One of the most eloquent prayers ever offered was given by a 78 year old man. He simply prayed, "Dear Lord be merciful and forgive all of my sins and I will be much obliged to you. Amen."



He found forgiveness through Christ. We can be certain that God heard and answered that prayer, for it came from the depth of his heart.

Won't you reach out and receive Christ as your Saviour today and be certain of complete forgiveness? As you see the door of mercy opening to you, make your decision today.

I desire to be forgiven for all past sins.	
Pray for me that I will be able to follow Christ all the way.	

This study h	as been faithfully updated from the original "The Bible Speaks" All Bible texts quoted are from the King James Bible
	For more information call us or contact us through our website:
	The South West - David Hatton: 07927 934572

The Midlands - Greg Campbell: 07880 921745 visit us at: www.thebiblespeaks.co.uk