

7-8-2022

THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

DOES GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE ALLOW ONE TO CONTINUE IN SIN?

It is amazing how far some will go in an effort to justify sin whether their own or someone else. There is no doubt that God loves every person, saved, or lost (John 3:16). He does not want anyone to perish (2 Peter 3:9). In His love and grace God provides salvation from sin through the precious blood of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:8-9). However, to claim that God's love and grace allows the sinner to continue with immunity in the practice of his or her sin is patently false.

Inspiration asked the question in Romans 6:1-2, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" When does one die to sin? One dies to sin (receives forgiveness of sin) when as a penitent believer confesses faith in Christ and is immersed in water (baptized) into the death of Jesus Christ. The Bible continues in Romans 6:3-4, "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus **were baptized into His death?** Therefore, we were buried with Him through **baptism into death**, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Having reached the blood of Jesus in baptism can one continue in the practice of the sins for which he or she needed forgiveness? Let the Bible answer, "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God" (Romans 6:12-13).

One of the conditions given in the Word of God for those who would receive the forgiveness of sins is REPENTANCE. Repentance is turning away from sin, ceasing the practice of it, and instead, following the Word of God. Jesus said, "Except you **repent**, you shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). When Paul preached the gospel in the city of Athens, he declared that "...God commands all men everywhere to **repent**" (Acts 17:30b). No one has truly repented who intentionally continues in the practice of sin.

Does God's love and grace allow one to continue in the practice of sin? God's answer - "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age" (Titus 2:11-12).
greenplaincoc@gmail.com.