

There Is No Place For Regret In The Life Of A Redeemed Christian

The human mind and spirit is by nature heretical.

Popular religious beliefs should be carefully checked against the Word of God, the Christian Bible.

Legalism, for example, is natural to the human mind and human spirit.

Grace, in the true New Testament meaning, is totally foreign to human logic and reasoning.

This attitude to grace is because it lies beyond the human mind to comprehend.

This is why the doctrine of grace had to be revealed by the Holy Spirit, in the Word of God, the Christian Bible.

The doctrine of grace could **never** have been discovered by the human mind.

Ephesians 2:8-9 [NIV] *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast.”*

Legalism is essentially self-atonement.

The seeker of God tries to make themselves acceptable to God by some act of restitution or by self-punishment, or the feeling of regret.

This desire to please God is commendable, but to seek this through self-effort is **not** acceptable to God.

Why?

Because this attitude of legalism assumes that sin may be undone once having been done.

Romans 6:23 [NIV] *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

This legalistic assumption is wholly false, all sin demands the death penalty, personal death or the death of a substitute human being, that is the Son of Man, Jesus Christ.

Yet long after we have learnt from God’s Word, the Christian Bible, that the above is true, we still feel we can please God and purify our minds and human spirit by penance such as fasting, long prayers or perpetual regret.

Perpetual regret is the Protestant’s unacknowledged penance.

Although we claim to believe the doctrine of justification by faith, our human mind still secretly feels we need what we call “*perpetual godly sorrow*” to make us acceptable to God.

2 Corinthians 7:10 [NIV] *“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”*

There is indeed a “*godly sorrow*” that does lead us to repentance, which puts us on the path for salvation.

But note, this “*godly sorrow*” leaves us with “*no regret*.”

The problem is that because of the natural influence of legalism in our minds, our “*godly sorrow*” is **not** powerful enough to lead us to true repentance.

Any persistence in this ineffective “*godly sorrow*” until it becomes chronic regret is neither right or good for us.

Regret is a kind of frustrated repentance that has **not** been consummated in our mind and human spirit.

Once a person has turned from all sin and is totally committed to God for salvation there is **no** legitimate place for regret.

John 14:27 [NIV] *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

This is how we can have this “*peace of mind*” that **only** Jesus Christ can give us.

The legalistic effort to be forgiven by works is one that is never ending.

We can **never** know how many “*good works*” have to be credited to our account for all our past and present sins to be self-atoned for.

Hebrews 7:11 [NIV] *“If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?”*

If our perfection, that is justification, could be attained by the legalistic form of worship, there would be **no** need for Jesus Christ to become our High Priest. The original priesthood of Melchizedek being restored to replace the priesthood of Aaron.

Hebrews 7:12 [NIV] *“For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.”*

The change of the law of who would become priests, had to be changed.

Hebrews 7:13-17 [NIV] *“He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no-one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. For it is declared: “You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek.”*

Jesus Christ, was **not** part of the Levitical priesthood, being descendent of the kingly tribe of Judah.

Hebrews 7:1-3 [NIV] *“This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace”. Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest for ever.”*

Only Jesus Christ the Son of God could fit these qualifications.

Hebrews 7:18-22 [NIV] *“The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: ‘You are a priest for ever.’” Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.”*

Jesus Christ is the High Priest of a better covenant [agreement] because His priesthood is eternal, **not** like the Levitical priesthood.

Hebrews 7:23-28 [NIV] *“Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives for ever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need, one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect for ever.”*

We are **only** saved from eternal death by an eternal covenant with an eternal High Priest, Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God.

It may be argued that the absence of regret indicates a low and inadequate view of sin.

The exact opposite is true.

Sin is so frightful, so destructive to the mind and spirit of a human being, that **no** human thought or act can diminish its lethal effect.

Only God can deal with sin successfully.

Only the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ the Son of Man, and the Son of God, can cleanse sin from our mind and spirit.

The person who has been delivered from the deadly enemy, human sin, feels only wondrous relief and unceasing gratitude, **never** regret.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

It is the reaction of gratitude, and total dependency on the mercy of God that prompts us to allow the Holy Spirit to take over our lives to mould them into something that is acceptable to God.

As all who have read many of my articles will know, **Romans 12:1-2** [NIV] is my most quoted scripture.

Why?

These two simple verses sum up all that God requires of any human being, to enable them to receive the gift of eternal life.

Luke 15:24 [NIV] *“For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.”*

A prodigal son [a repentant Christian] honours God, his Spiritual Father, more by rejoicing in his return and acceptance, than being full of regrets as to his former sinful life.

It was confidence in the loving-kindness of his father that gave him the courage to forget his chequered past.

Psalms 145:8 [NIV] *“The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.”*

God's Word, the Christian Bible, is full of promises and examples of this great compassionate love the God we worship has towards all human beings.

Regret may be just a form of self-love!

A person may have such a high regard for themselves, that any failure to live up to their own image of themselves disappoints them deeply.

They feel that they have betrayed their better-self by this act of wrongdoing.

Even if God says He has forgiven them, they find it too hard to forgive themselves, hence the attitude of regret.

They become permanently angry with themselves and try to punish themselves with petulant self-accusations.

This state of mind finally turns into a feeling of chronic regret, which outwardly appears to be a proof of repentance, but inwardly is actually proof of deep self-love.

A true Christian is no longer angry with themselves, because they are no longer self-centred, but Christ centred, as the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, works in them to create in them a Christ-like character and personality.

Hence there is no place for regret.