## UNTIL THE ANCIENT OF DAYS CAME VOLUME 1, ISSUE 12-2

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## Are you willing to **DIE FOR SINNERS**?

oses returned to the mount of God make an atonement unto the Lord for the children of Israel, because they had made a golden calf and worshiped it.

When Moses arrived, he said unto the Lord, "*Oh*, this people have sinned a **GREAT** sin, and have made them gods of gold.



"Yet NOW, if Thou wilt FORGIVE their sin —; and IF NOT, BLOT ME, I pray thee, OUT OF THY BOOK which thou hast written.

"And the Lord said unto Moses, WHOSO-EVER hath sinned against Me, <u>HIM</u> will I BLOT OUT OF MY BOOK" (ExoDus 32:30-33).

This "<u>BOOK</u>" that is spoken of is known as <u>the</u> <u>Book of Life</u> (PHILP. 4:3; REV. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27; 22:19).

Moses wasn't the **ONLY ONE** that asked forgiveness for the people:



Jesus <u>DID</u> while on the cross: "*Father*, **FOR**-**GIVE THEM**; for they **KNOW NOT** what they do" (LUKE 23:34).

Stephen <u>DID</u> while being <u>STONED</u>: "And he kneeled down, and cried with a LOUD VOICE, Lord, LAY NOT THIS SIN to their charge. And



when he had said this, he **FELL ASLEEP**" (ACTS 7:60).

And, the apostle Paul <u>DID</u>: "...I could wish that **MYSELF WERE ACCURSED** from Christ for my **BRETHREN**, my kinsmen according to the flesh" (ROMANS 9:3).

But the question is, <u>WHY</u> would Moses put <u>his</u> <u>ETERNITY</u> in jeopardy to <u>SAVE</u> the <u>SINFUL</u> and <u>REBELLIOUS</u> children of Israel? <u>WHY</u> would Stephen, at the point of <u>DEATH</u>, <u>seek forgive-</u> <u>ness</u> for his murderers? And, <u>WHY</u> would Paul be willing to be <u>ACCURSED FROM CHRIST</u> to save his brethren of Israel?

The answer lies in what our Savior said while on the <u>CROSS</u>, *"Father*, <u>FORGIVE THEM</u>; for they <u>KNOW NOT</u> what they do" (LUKE 23:34).

If <u>MANKIND KNEW FOR CERTAIN</u> the torment and suffering of a <u>HELL</u> waiting for them at their death, would he or she <u>WILLINGLY</u> reject God and His Son in this life, <u>KNOWING</u> they would <u>GO THERE</u>?

If they <u>KNEW FOR CERTAIN</u> that there was a coming <u>JUDGMENT</u>, followed by a sentence of <u>ETERNAL FIRE</u> in a lake that burns with fire and brimstone, and the smoke of <u>THEIR TORMENT</u> will <u>RISE UP</u> forever and ever, would they <u>WILL-INGLY CHOOSE IT</u>?

The answer is perfectly <u>CLEAR</u>: <u>THEY WOULD</u> <u>NOT CHOOSE THAT FUTURE</u>!

That is why Jesus said, "...<u>THEY KNOW NOT</u> WHAT THEY DO" (LUKE 23:34) because if they DID, they would <u>REPENT</u>! And that is where <u>CHRISTIANS</u> come in. We are called to <u>FAITH-</u> <u>FULLY</u> declare the <u>TRUTH</u>!

But God's enemy, the <u>DEVIL</u>, is in the full-time business of <u>HIDING the truth</u> of the gospel from sinners by instructing his "<u>MINISTERS</u>" (2 COR. 11:13-15) to handle <u>the Word of God</u> deceitfully, effectively <u>BLINDING</u> "...the MINDS of them which <u>BELIEVE NOT</u>, lest the LIGHT of the glorious gospel of Christ...should SHINE unto them" (2 COR. 4:4).

The problem is that <u>MOST professing Chris-</u> <u>tians</u> <u>HAVE NOT DONE</u> what Paul did: "...I count <u>ALL THINGS</u> [IN THIS WORLD] but LOSS for the EXCELLENCY OF THE KNOWLEDGE of Christ Jesus <u>MY</u> Lord: for whom I have <u>SUF-FERED THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS</u>, and do count them but DUNG, that I may WIN Christ (PHILIPPIANS 3:8).

What have **<u>YOU suffered the LOSS of</u>**?

"GREATER LOVE hath no man than THIS, that a man LAY DOWN HIS LIFE for his friends" (JOHN 15:13). "...<u>WHAT IS YOUR LIFE</u> [IN THIS WORLD]? It is even as a VAPOUR, that appeareth for A LIT-TLE TIME, and then VANISHETH AWAY" (JAMES 4:14), <u>therefore</u>, "...pass the time of YOUR SO-JOURNING [YOUR FOREIGN RESIDENCE] here IN FEAR" (1 PETER 1:17).

When you come to realize how God has "...<u>DELIVERED US</u> from <u>SO GREAT</u> a death" (2 COR. 1:10), this <u>KNOWLEDGE</u> should inspire you to <u>REJECT THE PLEASURES</u> of this world, and <u>embrace</u> the <u>PROMISES</u> of the world to come!

So, would <u>YOU</u> be<u>WILLING</u> to offer <u>YOURSELF A</u> <u>LIVING SACRIFICE</u> to save others? Are <u>YOU</u> <u>WILLING to SUFFER THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS</u> as Paul did? Or are you <u>TOO ASHAMED</u>?

