

## LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED

by John Isaac Edwards

ServPro, a water and fire damage restoration company, has the mantra: ***Like It Never Happened***. It is amazing how a flood or fire can do such damage to a building, and yet when the restoration crew is finished, one would never know there had ever been a flood or fire! I am making spiritual application of this concept in our study. The Bible word “*remission*” is defined as “forgiveness, pardon, of sins (properly, the letting them go, as if they had not been committed...” (*Thayer*). Thus, like it never happened!

### 1) JOHN PREACHED

**REMISSION OF SINS.** Mark 1:4 and Luke 3:3 report, “*John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.*” It could be like it never happened!

### 2) KNOWLEDGE OF

#### SALVATION COMES BY

**REMISSION OF SINS.** It was said, “*To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins*” (Lk. 1:77). One says, “I know I’m saved!” You ask, “How do you know?” He answers, “Because of what I feel in my heart.” Is that what the text says? Does it read: “To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the feeling they have in their heart?” No indeed. Until

one receives the remission of sins he cannot know that he is saved!

### 3) JESUS SHED HIS BLOOD FOR REMISSION OF SINS.

Without shedding of blood there is no remission (Heb. 9:22). In instituting the Lord’s supper, Jesus took the cup and said, “... *this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins*” (Mt. 26:28). Thus, it can be like it never happened! However, there can be no remission apart from the shed blood of Christ!

### 4) REMISSION OF SINS

#### PREACHED AMONG ALL

**NATIONS.** Repentance and remission of sins was first preached in the name of Christ among all nations in Jerusalem. Jesus commissioned His apostles, “*And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem*” (Lk. 24:47). This occurred in Acts 2, when “...*there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven*” (v. 5) and Peter preached, “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...*” (v. 38).

### 5) WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHALL RECEIVE

**REMISSION OF SINS.** The work of Peter in Caesarea shows that remission is available to whosoever. Peter declared of Jesus, “*To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins*” (Acts 10:43). Thus, regardless of who you are or what you have done, it can be like it never happened! The word “*believeth*” does not suggest remission comes through mere mental assent, but “a conviction conjoined with obedience to Christ” (*Thayer*). Remember, Christ is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him (Heb. 5:9).

### 6) SOME EXAMPLES OF LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED:

The book of Acts is filled with example after example of folks receiving the remission of sins. Remember, once a rule is established that rule is included anytime the subject is discussed, though it may not be specifically mentioned. For example, when the rule was established that baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), then anytime we read where folks guilty of sin were baptized, it was for the remission of sins. Now, watch restoration work, through the gospel of Christ, at its finest:

**Jews on Pentecost.** These had “taken” and by “wicked hands” “crucified and slain” Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 2:22-23). Peter affirmed, “...ye have crucified...” (v. 36). When they asked, “...Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (v. 37), they could have been told, “There’s nothing you can do. You’ve been too bad. There’s no hope.” Yet, it could be like it never happened! Peter answered, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38). How would you have responded? “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41). Amazing!

**Simon.** This man was a sorcerer. He was involved in witchcraft, having practiced the magic art. His was the work of deception. The Bible says of him, “...used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one” (Acts 8:9). Evidently, he was very effective in his practice for the Bible says, “To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him

they had regard, because of long time he bewitched them with sorceries” (vv. 10-11). Yet, when Philip, a true man of God preaching the true word of God with the true power of God came to town, things changed. “Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized...” (v. 13). It could have been that Simon had been deceiving people too long, and thus it would never be any different for him. Yet, it was like it never happened!

**Saul of Tarsus.** He was at Stephen’s stoning, holding the clothes and consenting unto his death (Acts 7:58; 8:1). “As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison” (Acts 8:3). In chapter 9, on the way to Damascus to persecute Christians, he had a life-changing experience, a come-to-Jesus moment, if you will. He “...trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” (v. 6). He could have been told, “You’ve been so sinful, there’s nothing you can do.” Yet, the Lord told him, “Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do” (v. 6). In the city,

he was told, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Immediately he “...arose, and was baptized” (Acts 9:18). For this chiefest of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15), it was like it never happened!

**The Corinthians.** Paul wrote, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, no adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified...” (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Note the words “were” and “are”! How remarkable that for these it could be like it never happened! How? “...hearing believed, and were baptized” (Acts 18:8). May God help us to see people as they are, not as they were!

God promised, “...their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more” (Heb. 8:12). Like it never happened!

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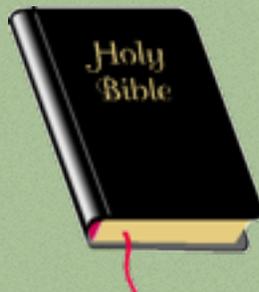
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