**These Perilous Times**

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**“Forgiveness-A Christ-Centered Doctrine”**

 Perhaps over the course of your life you have heard someone blatantly say: “I could *never forgive* them for what they did.” Today, even among Christians, there seems to be a harbored animosity and hatred toward those who may have mistreated them. Instead of forgiveness, there exists a culture of vengeance.

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

 Please meditate on the following words that Jesus prayed, as He hung on the cross, *suffering* *for those who put Him there* (which includes you and me).

“And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. ***Then said Jesus***, ***Father, forgive them,*** for they know not what they do…” Luke 23:33, 34 KJV (Emphasis supplied)

**Words from Jesus’ “model” prayer**

“And *forgive us our depts as we forgive our debtors*… For if we forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive men not their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matthew 6:12, 14&15 KJV (Italics supplied)

 We, God’s “remnant people” are aware of all the evil happening throughout our country. Crime is everywhere not just in the world’s major cities, it’s wherever people congregate-even in churches!

 So how are we supposed to respond when we are personally targeted by someone else’s anger and hostility?

 “God’s Word” never fails! Let’s notice words of wisdom from Jesus while delivering the “Sermon on the Mount.

“You have heard that it was said, you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you *love your enemies*, bless them that curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you, and persecute you.” Matthew 5:43, 44 NKJV

(Italics supplied)

**How often are we to forgive those who sin against us?**

“Then came Peter to Him (Jesus) and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times: ***but until seventy times seven***.”

Matthew 18:21, 22 KJV (Emphasis supplied)

**The defense Rests!**