

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990, USA

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Webpage on the Internet: <https://www.askelm.com> • E-Mail address: [askoffice@askelm.com](mailto:askoffice@askelm.com)

Dear Associates and Friends,

February 2025

The February 2025 article is "[Forgiving God](#)," expanded and reformatted from my original 2003 article.

To be sure, God has nothing to repent of in His treatment of any human being, whether it is Job, Mary, the mother of Jesus — or even Jesus Himself:

**"Who, being inherently in the form of God, deems it not pillaging to be equal with God, nevertheless [He] empties Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming to be in the likeness of humanity [Greek, *anthropos*, plural], and, being found in fashion as a human [Greek, *anthropon*, singular], He humbles Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."**

• *Philippians 2:6–8 CLV*

Jesus is our model in all things. God our Father does not even apologize or repent to His only-begotten Son. Jesus volunteered for — and suffered — a fate that saved and will glorify every human being. Even Jesus asked for a different way to fulfill His mission.

A day or so after Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He was in the Temple with His disciples among the people. He was very troubled with what He knew would take place a few days later:

**"NOW is My soul disturbed. And what may I be saying?"**

**'Father, SAVE ME out of this hour'? But therefore came I into this hour. 'Father, glorify Thy name!'**

**A voice, then, came out of heaven, 'I glorify it also, and shall be glorifying it again!'"**

• *John 12:27–28 CLV*

This incident occurred days before He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. His human frailty called out to His God, yet He finished His prayer in the Garden with, **"... not as I will, but as Thou [will]!"** (Matthew 26:39, 42 echoed in Mark 14:35–36 and Luke 22:42).

God has never apologized to anyone for anything He does. He certainly does not need our forgiveness. So why write this article? Why should you read it? Because the events of our lives are part of God our Father and Christ preparing us for our future. This is important for us as believers to understand.

He is creating a work of art in you. Yes, it is as if He is a craftsman and you are the pot (Isaiah 29:16, 45:9–10; Jeremiah 18:1–10; and Romans 9:19, 21). He will do as He wishes for you to turn out exactly as He wishes you to be. And I believe He will explain (but not justify) everything He has done to mold you, me, and every other human being, to be a useful and productive, and eventually perfect children of God.

When evils and sinful things happen to us or our loved ones, whether natural disasters, accidents, injuries, illnesses, or events caused by the sins of man — we look to God for help, solace, or answers. I hope this month's article will give you a perspective on life that you may not have considered before.

God created you to experience life. That life experience includes evils, suffering, and death as part of our physical existence. Be conciliated to God. It will help you live in peace, whatever your situation.

As I wrote in the October 2003 Newsletter introducing the original “Forgiving God” article:

**“... No full explanation of evil, no explanation of suffering, its purpose or why God allows so much of it will be given to us UNTIL after your resurrection, and my resurrection, and everyone’s resurrection from the dead.**

**This will finally be done when God fulfills His will and all men have ‘a full knowledge of the Truth’ (1 Timothy 2:4) through the atonement of Christ Jesus.”**

Enjoy this month’s updated article.

### ***More Financial Payments to Victims of Roman Catholic Sex Abuse***

I came across the article “[More than \\$5 Billion Spent on Catholic Sexual Abuse Allegations](#).” It was originally published by the Religion News Service on January 16, 2025, reprinted on the Real Clear Religion newsletter.

I remember wondering years ago why no one was accounting for all the money being spent to pay off victims and other costs. I knew this was public information when great amounts of money was being paid out. Now someone has done that accounting.

It seems that for the past 20 years, the Roman Catholic Church has spent more than \$5 billion in legal fees and particularly in reparations to those who were victims of sexual abuse when they were under the care and supervision of Catholic clergy and employees. These crimes were done under the cover of a religious institution that claims to protect and empowers the young, the weak, and vulnerable.

As more information about such matters becomes public, this will hasten the collapse and demise of the organization we know as the Catholic Church.

### ***Receipts of Contributions to ASK for 2024***

This is the last reminder notice for year-end contribution receipts for the year 2024. Of course, we can always send a receipt anytime you request us to do so. Thanks to all of you who contribute regularly. Any amount is appreciated.

### ***Thank You***

I believe information like this month’s article (originally written in 2003) is different than anything you will read or learn elsewhere.

Your prayers and contributions and comments help this message of reconciliation to God and the truth of God’s word to continue to be produced. to be put out strongly over the Internet, through Dr. Martin’s books and literature, along with my contributions. The purpose of ASK is to make plain the Word of God where it has been obscured through translations and theological thinking that either ignore or complicate the plain statements of Scripture.

We are so grateful that it is difficult for words at times to express the emotions we feel with our appreciation of your support. Life does not allow us to communicate with all of you as much as we should or wish to do.

Thank you all so much for your comments, and expressions of love and support.

David Sielaff  
[david@askelm.com](mailto:david@askelm.com)