

Two Kisses

Psalm 85:4-13

The Bible speaks of two kisses which relate to our Lord's substitutionary death at Calvary.

1) The Terrible Kiss of Betrayal. Judas, the apostate traitor, made an arrangement with the Lord's enemies that he would kiss the One whom they should take into custody (*Matt. 26:48*). Judas fulfilled his pledge and identified the Lord Jesus with this kiss of treachery (*Matt. 26:49; Prov. 27:6*). A kiss should be a sign of affection, friendship and oneness. It would have been more consistent with his true character if Judas had slapped the Lord with disdain. Amazingly, after Judas had kissed Him, Jesus addressed him as "friend" (*Matt. 26:50*). Jesus could have called him "traitor" or "villain" or "child of the devil" and it would have been true, but the Lord returned good for evil, showing love to His enemy.



2) The Wonderful Kiss of Justification.

"Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have **kissed** each other" (*Psalm 85:10*). At the cross, the greatest kiss in the history of mankind took place. Mercy and truth will not meet

in a court of justice. A righteous court cares only for the truth, for the real facts of the case. If the facts show a person to be guilty, then mercy cannot be shown. Justice demands that the criminal be prosecuted. At Calvary, mercy and truth came together because righteousness was upheld by the death of God's Son. The penalty was paid and the demands of justice were met. The holiness of God was maintained. God could remain just (righteous) and at the same time justify the ungodly without compromising His righteous character (*Rom. 3:26; 4:5*). Truth was upheld, the law was enforced, the penalty was fully paid, and righteousness and peace kissed. How amazing! Wicked enemies of God, being declared **righteous** by faith, have **peace** with God and complete reconciliation (*Rom. 5:1,6-11*)!

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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