President Roosevelt described the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour as the “most infamous act in history”. I am sure the President thought it was. However, Christians have another act that they believe was more infamous.

The act I refer to was the way in which Judas Iscariot betrayed his Master. Judas had received the most gracious treatment at the hand of Jesus. Jesus had given him the same gifts and blessing on his ministry as the other eleven apostles received. He was given even higher privilege that the others as Jesus appointed him the treasurer for the group.

The sop at the Last Supper was always seen as the highest honour the master of the feast could give a guest. Jesus gave it to Judas in front of the other apostles. Even when Judas betrayed his Master, Jesus called him “Friend”. So Judas received more privilege than all the others.

Peter denied his beloved Lord under extreme duress and it was an impulsive act. However, Judas was cunning and calculating in his betrayal. He took 30 pieces of silver as payment for his deed.

Then, the most dreadful part of his treachery was the feigned affection for Jesus when he kissed the Master. In fact, in the Greek of the New Testament, it indicates Judas repeatedly kissed Jesus, such was the disgusting nature of his deed.

The kiss of Judas was supposed to be the normal greeting of a student for the master. It was also the greeting of a guest being welcomed into a home. It was a wonderful sign of love and affection for the one being kissed. Judas desecrates the warm and loving deed and pollutes his own soul in the process.

In Luke 7:38 we read of the sinful woman kissing the feet of Jesus repeatedly. The host of the feast had invited Jesus into his home but did not give His the customary kiss of peace. The poor sinful woman did not stop kissing Jesus’ feet. She was contrite and obviously desirous of the forgiveness that Jesus came to offer those who sensed their need.

Our verse today calls on all of us to “kiss the Son”. The author means what he says in the next verse with the words, “Blessed are all who take refuge in him” (NIV).

So in answer to the question, “What is in a kiss?” we respond that to kiss Jesus is to obtain eternal life.

The kiss has always meant a sign of love, respect, honour, subjection to a ruler and some other positive things. If you have come to Jesus in faith then you may say you have “kissed” Him. Do you have this warm and loving relationship with the Saviour? Perhaps this is just where you need to begin to put the pieces of your life back together. He will give you a “kiss” in return and embrace you in love forever.

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