

Forgiveness and Presence of God

The Principle of Reversal (7)

May 22, 2016

Review: So far we have seen seven issues

<u>Jesus took our:</u>	<u>Scriptures</u>	<u>So we could receive His:</u>
1. Loneliness	Jn 12:32; Is 53:3	1. Nearness, acceptance
2. Sin and depravity	2Cor 5:21	2. Righteousness
3. Guilt	1Jn 2:2	3. Mercy
4. Death	1Cor 15:21	4. Eternal life
5. Bareness	Is 53:10; 2Pt 1:8	5. Fruitfulness
6. Curse	Gal 3:13-14	6. Blessing
7. Slain by Law	Rom 7:1-6	7. Serve in freedom
8. Alienation	1Pt 2:9-10	8. Become His people
9. Captivity	Gal 5:1,13; 1Cor 3:17	9. Freedom from bondage

10. God turned His back on Jesus so that He could turn His face toward us. God forsook Jesus so He could accept and bless us.

Sin disqualified man from God's presence (His face).

Gen 3:8 ... and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God ...

Gen 3:24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden ...

God hides His face against sin and sinners

Ps 13:1 How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?
(Lev 17:10; 20:3; 26:17; Dt 31:17-18; 32:20; Job 13:24; 34:29; Ps 10:1,11; 27:9; 30:7; 34:16; 44:24;
55:1; 69:17; 88:14; 89:46; 102:2; 104:29; 143:7; Isa 8:17; 30:20; 45:15; 57:17; 54:8; 64:7; Jer 33:5; Ezk
14:8; 15:7; 39:23-24, 29; Hos 5:6; Mic 3:4; 1Pt 3:12).

Israel was cast out of God's presence (Jer 23:39; 52:3); God showed them His back and not His face, in judgment for their sins.

Jer 18:16-17 ... I will scatter them Before the enemy; I will show them My back and not My face In the day of their calamity." (Ezk 7:22)

God hides His face in judgment

Isa 54:8 "In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, but with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer.
(Dt 31:17-18; Ps 22:24; 104:29; Isa 8:17; 64:7; Jer 33:5; Ezk 39:23-24; Mic 3:4)

Final judgment on sin

2Thes 1:9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

Face-to-face with God

Moses - God speaks to him face-to-face

Ex 33:11 The Lord would speak to Moses face-to-face, just as a man speaks to his friend
(Dt 34:10; Num 12:8).

Moses could not see God's face when he saw God's form (Ex 33:18-23)

Israel - God spoke to Israel face-to-face

Dt 5:4 "The LORD spoke to you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire, ..."
Num 14:14 Israel saw the Lord eye-to-eye

Hagar names the place "The God who sees" after seeing the Angel of the Lord (Gen 16:13).

Jacob names the place "The face of God" after wrestling with the Angel of the Lord (Gen 32:30)

Gideon names the altar "The LORD is peace" after seeing the Angel of the Lord (Jdg 6:22).

God's face is symbolic:

Presence of God

Ex 33:14 ... "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.

Literally "my face will go ..." (Ex 33:9; Dt 4:37; Isa 63:9)

Ex 33:15 Prayer of Moses "If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here."

To seek God's face is to seek His presence (2Sam 21:1; 1Ch 16:11; Ps 105:4;)

Prayer - to seek the face of God in prayer (2Ch 7:14; 2Sa 21:1; 1Ch 16:11; Hos 5:15)

Ps 105:4 Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face continually. (Ps 24:6; 105:4; 119:58)

Worship - to seek the presence of God in worship (Ex 23:15-17; 34:20; Dt 16:16; 31:11; Isa 1:12)

Ps 42:1-2 As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?

Favor of God - To seek the face of God is to seek the favor of God

Zec 8:21-22 'The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, "Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; ... (Ex 32:11; 1Sa 13:12; 2Ki 13:4; 2Ch 33:12; Jer 26:19; Da 9:13; Zec 7:2; Mal 1:9)

Blessing - The face of God as a sign of blessing

Nu 6:25-26 The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; 26 The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.' (Ps 4:6; 31:16; 44:3; Ps 67:1 80:3,19; 119:135; Ezk 39:29)

When God hides his face blessings are withheld (Ps 13:1; 27:9; 30:7; 44:24; 69:17; 88:14; 102:2; 143:7).

Rejection of Jesus

God turned His face from Jesus

Mt 27:46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" (Ps 22:1)

Jesus took the judgment

Mt 27:50-51 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. 51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; (Mk 15:37-38)

Prophetic promise fulfilled in Christ

Isa 54:7-8 "For a brief moment I forsook you, But with great compassion I will gather you. 8 "In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, But with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you," Says the LORD your Redeemer. (Ezk 20:33-37)

Isa 62:4-5 It will no longer be said to you, "Forsaken," Nor to your land will it any longer be said, "Desolate"; But you will be called, " My delight is in her," And your land, "Married"; For the LORD delights in you, And to Him your land will be married. 5 For as a young man marries a virgin, So your sons will marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So your God will rejoice over you.

Isa 62:12 And they will call them, "The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD"; And you will be called, "Sought out, a city not forsaken."

Isa 41:10 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.' (Isa 41:17)

We enter His presence through Jesus

We draw near to God through (the veil) the blood of Jesus (Heb 6:19-20; 10:19-22).

Promise of His presence

Heb 13:5 ... for He Himself has said, " I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," (Dt 31:6, 8; Jos 1:5; 1Chr 28:20; Ps 21:6; 41:12; 140:13)

11. He bore our guilt so that we who were guilty might be free. He was condemned so that we the guilty might be forgiven.

Rom 3:23-25 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

The Bible Reader's Companion

A propitiating sacrifice (3:25). The NIV use of the word "atonement" here is weak. The Gk. word hilasterion draws on both Gk. culture, in which "propitiation" implied averting terrible punishments and moving the gods to act favorably, and Heb. culture, in which "atonement" implies the sacrificial death of a substitute who takes the punishment an offerer deserves. Jesus surrendered Himself up to death, represented here in the shedding of His blood. As a substitute He took the awesome penalty our sins deserved and thus saved us from the punishment that we deserve.

The Open Bible

The wrath of God judges and punishes sin. Jesus is a **propitiation** (satisfaction) in that His sacrificial death paid the penalty for our sin, satisfying the righteous wrath of God. It is God Himself in Christ who provided this sacrifice. **His blood:** The sacrificial death of Jesus. **through faith:** The way to receive the benefits of Christ's sacrifice. **His righteousness:** God is righteous; He cannot condone sin. The sacrifice of Christ demonstrates that He always takes sin seriously. In the past God left **sins** unpunished, because He knew that He Himself would take their punishment in Christ. Today He justifies the sinner who has **faith in Jesus** because He Himself has taken the sinner's punishment. God can thus forgive and yet be **just**. He has not compromised His hatred of sin, yet He has kept His promise to bless humankind.

The Bible Exposition Commentary; by Wiersbe; At great cost to God (Rom 3:24–25).

Salvation is free, but it is not cheap. Three words express the price God paid for our salvation: propitiation, redemption, and blood. In human terms, "propitiation" means appeasing someone who is angry, usually by a gift. But this is not what it means in the Bible. "Propitiation" means the satisfying of God's holy Law, the meeting of its just demands, so that God can freely forgive those who come to Christ. The word "blood" tells us what the price was. Jesus had to die on the cross in order to satisfy the Law and justify lost sinners.

The best illustration of this truth is the Jewish Day of Atonement described in Leviticus 16. Two goats were presented at the altar, and one of them was chosen for a sacrifice. The goat was slain and its blood taken into the holy of holies and sprinkled on the mercy seat, that golden cover on the ark of the covenant. This sprinkled blood covered the two tablets of the Law inside the ark. The shed blood met (temporarily) the righteous demands of the holy God.

The priest then put his hands on the head of the other goat and confessed the sins of the people. Then the goat was taken out into the wilderness and set free to symbolize the carrying away of sins. "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us" (Ps. 103:12). In the Old Testament period, the blood of animals could never take away sin; it could only cover it until the time when Jesus would come and purchase a finished salvation. God had "passed over" the sins that were past (Rom. 3:25, literal translation), knowing that His Son would come and finish the work. Because of His death and resurrection, there would be "redemption"—a purchasing of the sinner and setting him free.

God's nature is forgiveness

Ps 103:2-3 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; 3 Who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases; (Ex 34:6; Num 14:18; Ps 130:4; Isa 43:25; Mic 7:18-19; 1Jn 1:8-9)

Forgiveness is a new covenant promise

Jer 31:34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Jer 33:8; Ps 32:1-2; 103:3, 12; Heb 8:12).

Mt 26:28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Lk 24:47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Ac 2:38; 10:43)

Ac 13:38 "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. 39 Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses. (Ac 26:18)

Heb 9:22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Heb 10:17 Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." 18 And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

Forgiveness of sins comes from Jesus

Mt 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Rom 4:7-8 "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

Col 2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, (Eph 4:32)

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1Jn 2:1-2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.
(1Jn 2:12; Rev 1:5)

Next Week:

12. He was charged so that no charge could be laid against us (Rom 8:33).

13. He was condemned so that there is now no condemnation for us (Rom 8:1).