

# Believers in Christ Are Forgiven

September 1, 2013

## I. Points we have covered:

- A. Through the New Covenant, God forgives our sins (Heb 8:12).
- B. God forgives sins through the sacrifice of Jesus (Rom 3:23-25).
- C. Jesus often forgave people their sins without them asking.
- D. God's love causes Him to forgive our sins (Mic 7:18-20).
- E. Redemption is the forgiveness of sins (Eph 1:7; Col 1:13-14).
- F. Forgiveness (every sin committed by every person who ever lived) occurred through the cross of Christ (Eph 4:32; Col 2:13-14; 1 John 2:12).

God's math = **Forgiveness**; "1 TREE + 3 NAILS = 4 GIVEN"

- G. God is (His nature) a forgiving God
  - 1. Because of His love God forgives; because He is just, He must punish the guilty (Ex 34:7; Num 14:18).
  - 2. God forgives and brings us into His presence (Ps 65:3-4).
  - 3. God forgives because of His abundant mercy, and does not forsake us (Neh 9:17-19; Ps 86:5).
  - 4. There is forgiveness with God (Ps 130:2-4; Isa 43:24-25).
  - 5. Forgiveness belongs to the Lord (Dan 9:8-9).
  - 6. Jonah ran from his call because he did not want God to forgive Nineveh (Jonah 4:2).
  - 7. God forgives; His thoughts are higher than ours (Isa 55:6-9).

## II. Forgiveness

A. The freeing of a person from guilt and its consequences;  
(Forgiveness can involve both the remission of punishment and the cancellation of debts.)  
usually as an act of favor, compassion or love,  
with the aim of restoring a broken personal relationship.  
(from Martin Manser; "The Dictionary of Bible Themes")

B. Who can forgive sins?  
Who is this who forgives sins? (Luke 7:49);  
Who can forgive sins but God? (Mark 2:7; Luke 5:21);  
The Son of Man has authority to forgive sins (Mark 2:10; Luke 5:24).

C. Forgiveness by atonement  
In the Old Testament the priest made atonement and they were forgiven  
(see Lev. 4:20, 26, 31, 35; 5:10, 13, 16, 18; 6:7; 19:22; Num. 15:25, 26, 28);

In Him (Jesus) we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14);

My blood, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:28);

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Heb. 9:22);

Where sins have been forgiven, there is no more sacrifice (Heb. 10:18).

### III. **Believers are forgiven from sins** (Acts 10:23; 26:16-18; Luke 1:77).

God forgives the sins of believers on the basis of the once for all sacrifice offered by Jesus Christ on the cross. Believers' sins are no longer held against them, on account of the atoning death of Jesus Christ.

#### **A. God's nature** and forgiveness (Ex 34:5-7; Nu 14:17-20; Ne 9:16-17; Ps 103:1-18;

Isa 43:25; Mic 7:18-20; 1Jn 1:8-9)

Ex 34:5-7 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD. Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." (Num 14:17-19; Neh 9:16-17; Mic 7:18-20).

Ps 103:3 Who pardons all your iniquities,

vs. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

vs. 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Isa 43:25 "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

#### **B. God's promise** of forgiveness (Jer 31:31-34 See also 2Ch 7:14; Isa 55:6-7; Heb 8:8-12)

Jer 31:31-34 "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, " I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (Heb 8:8-12)

2 Chron 7:14 and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Isa 55:6-7 Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

#### **C. People's need** of forgiveness (Ro 3:9,23; 1Jn 1:8-10; Ps 51:1-5; Isa 6:1-5)

Rom 3:9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1 John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

Ps 51:1-5 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

#### **D. The means of forgiveness**

##### **1. Under the old covenant (Heb 9:22; Lev 4:27-31; 5:17-18)**

Heb 9:22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Lev 4:27-31 Now if anyone of the common people sins unintentionally in doing any of the things which the LORD has commanded not to be done, and becomes guilty, if his sin which he has committed is made known to him, then he shall bring for his offering a goat, a female without defect, for his sin which he has committed. He shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slay the sin offering at the place of the burnt offering. The priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering; and all the rest of its blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar. Then he shall remove all its fat, just as the fat was removed from the sacrifice of peace offerings; and the priest shall offer it up in smoke on the altar for a soothing aroma to the LORD. Thus the priest shall make atonement for him, and he will be forgiven.

Lev 5:17-18 "Now if a person sins and does any of the things which the LORD has commanded not to be done, though he was unaware, still he is guilty and shall bear his punishment. He is then to bring to the priest a ram without defect from the flock, according to your valuation, for a guilt offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him concerning his error in which he sinned unintentionally and did not know it, and it will be forgiven him.

##### **2. Under the new covenant (Mt 26:27-28; Jn 1:29; Eph 1:7-8; Col 2:13-15)**

Matt 26:27-28 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Eph 1:7-8 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

Col 2:13-15 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

**E. The assurance of forgiveness** (1Jn 1:8-9; Ps 51:7; 103:8-12; 130:3-4; Pr 28:13; Isa 1:18; Ac 2:38;

Jas 5:13-16; 1Jn 2:1-2)

1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ps 51:7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Ps 103:8-12 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Ps 130:3-4 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.

Prov 28:13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

Isa 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, " Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

James 5:13-16 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

1 John 2:1-2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

**Martin Luther's Dream** - Martin Luther once recounted a dream he had.

In the dream there was a book where all Luther's sins were written.

The devil spoke to Luther,

"Martin, here is one of your sins, here is another," pointing to the writing in the book.

Then Luther said to the devil,

"Take a pen and write, 'The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.' "

(See 1 John 1:7)