

# Forgiveness and Faith Righteousness

September 8, 2013

## I. Review:

- 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 of every sin occurred through the cross of Christ (Eph 4:32; Col 2:13-14; 1 John 2:12).
- G. God (His nature) is a forgiving God (Ps 130:2-4; Isa 43:24-25).
- H. Believers are forgiven (Acts 10:43; 26:16-18; Luke 1:77).

## II. We need to know that we are forgiven from all of our sin.

1 John 2:1-2 if we do sin, God will defend us.

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.

Rom 5:6-10 Christ died for the helpless, the ungodly, sinners and His enemies

For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

2 Cor 5:18-21 we were reconciled to God through Christ

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

### Note:

#### Jesus Paid It All

The idea of ransom should not be construed to mean that in Jesus' death God paid a ransom to the devil who enslaves men. This would mean that the devil is more powerful than God. The thought is that in the death of His Son as man's substitute, God provided the grounds whereby He can forgive sinners without violating His own holiness and righteousness. Since man cannot pay the price for his liberation from sin's penalty and power, God in the person of His Son paid it for man. Jesus paid the ransom for all. It becomes effective for each person who through faith in God's Son receives salvation as a gift of God's grace. (from HH Hobbs; My Favorite Illustrations)

## Going Astray

"How ready we are to go astray! How easily we are drawn aside into innumerable snares, while in the meantime we are bold and confident, and doubt not but we are right and safe! How much do we stand in need of the wisdom, the power, the condescension, patience, forgiveness, and gentleness of our good Shepherd!" (by Jonathan Edwards)

## III. Grace righteousness is credited (not charged) to believers.

**Abraham and David are our examples of grace/faith righteousness (Rom 4:1-8).**

The example of Abraham: **God justifies (forgives) the ungodly (Rom 4:1-5).**

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

David's example: **God credits (forgives) righteousness to the worst kinds of sins (Rom 4:6-8).**

Rom 4:6-8 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account." (see also Ps 32:1-2; 51:1-13)

**Note:** credited = Gk. logizomai; (Strong's #3049) is properly used: (a) of "numerical calculation," to count; (b) "to take into account," (c) "to consider, calculate," (from Vine's Dictionary)

Used 11 times in Rom 4:

- v. 3 ... Abraham believed god, and it was credited to him as righteousness."
- v. 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.
- v. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes ... his faith is credited as righteousness,
- v. 6 ... David also speaks of ... whom God credits righteousness apart from works:
- v. 8 ... whose sin the Lord will not take into account."
- v. 9 ... "faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness."
- v. 10 How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? ...
- v. 11 ... that righteousness might be credited to them,
- v. 22 ... it was also credited to him as righteousness.
- v. 23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him,
- v. 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him ...

2 Cor 5:19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Gal 3:6 Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.  
Jas 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "and Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God.

#### **IV. When God forgives sins he also forgets them.**

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.

Jer 50:20 'In those days and at that time,' declares the LORD, 'search will be made for the iniquity of Israel, but there will be none; and for the sins of Judah, but they will not be found; for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.'

Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

#### **V. Faith steps - responding to God's offer of forgiveness in Christ**

- **Conviction of sin**  
Jn 16:8-9; Acts 16:29; Isa 6:5; Eze 33:10-11
- **Confession of sin**  
1 Jn 1:9; Lk 15:17-20; Jn 3:36; 5:24; Acts 13:38-39; 16:31; Psa 32:3-5; Prov 28:13
- **Repentance from sin**  
Mat 3:1-2; Lk 3:2; Jn 8:11; Acts 3:19; 17:30; 19:18; Rom 6:11-14; 1 Thes 1:9;
- **Faith towards God**  
Mk 1:14-15; Acts 16: 31; Rom 3:22-26; 10:8-10; Eph 2:8
- **Water baptism**  
Mat 28:19; Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12-16; 36-38; 10:48 16:31-34; 22:16; Rom 6:1-7; 1 Pt 3:21
- **Making restitution**  
Lk 19:1-10; Ex 22:1-4; Lev 6:1-7; Prov 6:30-31; Eze 33:12-16
- **Forgive others**  
Mat 6:12-15; 18:21-35; Mk 11:25-26; Lk 6:37; 11:4; 17:3-4; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13