



“Forgiveness” (Selected Scriptures)

Danny Hodges – TS2464

Intro: Briefly review 1st three basics messages...

Colossians 2:13-14 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, having cancelled the written code (new NIV = “cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness”), with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

PERSONAL FORGIVENESS THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST

This is the greatest need in a person’s life (See Mark 2:1-12). The virgin Mary was told by the angel Gabriel she would give birth to a son, and she was to give him the name Jesus, because he would save his people from their sins (Matt.1:21). Jesus = Yahweh is salvation.

- Acts 4:12 salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.
- John 14:6 I am the way and the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through me.

Sin is man’s greatest problem, salvation our greatest need, and Jesus our only hope. It is only through Jesus that we can find forgiveness for our sins.

Rom.2:23 ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

One of the challenges some people face is an inability to realize just how sinful we are. See Luke 18:9-14. The Pharisees compared themselves with others, and in doing so, deceived themselves into believing they were righteous.

Listen to what the Lord said to the church of Laodicea (Rev.3:17-18).

See Rom.3:9-20

Isa.64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

Even the prophet Isaiah failed to see just how sinful he really was (see Isaiah 6:1-7).

God will forgive those that we feel are unforgiveable, or should not be forgiven (Isa.55:6-9). Nebuchadnezzar was one of the most wicked men in all of history, and yet God saved him. Noah got drunk after his salvation experience (Gen.21); Abraham worshipped idols in Babylon, and even after God saved him, twice lied about his wife, went down to Egypt without God's direction, and impregnated Hagar out of the will of God; Lot left the tent life and ended up making his home in Sodom; Jacob was a dirty rotten sneaky thief; Moses was a murderer, and even after become a humble mature leader, got angry and struck the rock twice, forfeiting a trip into the Promised Land; Samson gave in to the lust of his flesh, lust of his eyes, and was very prideful (over a period of 20 years!); Rahab was a prostitute; David was an adulterer and a murderer (See Psalm 32:1-2); The Ninevites were among the most vile, ruthless pagans in all of history; Matthew was a tax collector; Peter, James and John fell asleep when they should have been praying in the Garden of Gethsemane; Peter denied three times that he even knew the Lord; All the apostles deserted Jesus in his greatest hour of need; Mary Magdalene was given over to the devil (7 demons); woman caught in adultery (John 8:11), woman at home of Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:36-50) , the Prodigal was a wild rebel; Saul of Tarsus persecuted and murdered Christians (I Timothy 1:15-17).

God's forgiveness is free (Isa.55:1-3a; Rom.3:19-24).

- Rev.22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the *free gift* of the water of life.

God's forgiveness is complete and final (Psalm 103:8-12; Hebrews 10:15-18; I Cor.13:5b).

- There is a story of a bishop and a young nun who claimed to have had a vision of Jesus. The nun was called before the bishop, and he wanted to know if this vision was indeed real. He asked the nun if she had talked to Jesus, and she said yes. After a little further discussion, he told her that if she had another vision of the Lord, to ask him what her bishop's primary sin was before he became a Christian. It was a test, because only the confessor and God would know such a thing. About three months later, the nun made an appointment with the bishop, advising him that she had another vision and once again, she talked to Jesus in this vision. Anxiously, and a bit apprehensively, he asked her if she had asked Jesus the question, "What was the bishop's primary sin before becoming a Christian?" "Yes, I did," she replied. "And what did he say," asked the bishop. Her reply – "He said, 'I don't remember.'"

God not only forgives us, He declares us righteous.

- Isa.1:18 "Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."
- II Cor.5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- See I Cor.6:9-11.

God's forgiveness enables us to have a clear conscience (Hebrews 10:22; also 9:14).

FORGIVENESS THAT FORGIVES

Eph.4:32 be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Col.3:13 Bear with one another and forgive whatever grievances you may have toward one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

This is vital for us as Christians living in these last days, especially in light of II Timothy 3:1-5.

Stephen (Acts 7:59-60)

Paul (II Tim.4:14-16; Phil.1:15-18)

II Cor.2:5-11; James 2:12-13

Jesus (Luke 23:34)

I find that the most difficult people to forgive are not people who have sinned against me, but rather have sinned against someone I love; David's unwillingness to forgive Absalom as he had been forgiven (II Samuel 13-15).

RESULTS OF AN UNWILLINGNESS TO FORGIVE

1. Imprisons us (Matthew 18:21-35; Read from Forgiveness That Forgives, pp.30-32)
2. Fellowship with God is hindered (Matthew 6:14-15)
3. Worship is unacceptable (Matthew 5:23-24)
4. Allows a breeding ground for bitterness (Heb.12:14-15)
5. Gives the devil a foothold in our lives (Eph.4:26-27)
 - Over time a foothold becomes a stronghold; This is what happened in the life of King Saul, his bitterness against David...

CONCLUSION

Two questions in closing:

1. Who needs to be forgiven?
2. Who needs to forgive?