

Sunday, January 20, 2013—The Things Freely Given Us of God—Total Forgiveness

Introduction/Review

- Last Sunday in this series we studied how as believers we are accepted in the beloved. God views us the same way he viewed Christ when he said, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.
- We went on to discuss how that reality ought to affect our lives practically. As believers we need recognizance that all our needs for unconditional love and acceptance have already been met in Jesus Christ. We need to guard against unrealistic expectations and misplaced dependencies.
- Another thing that we have been given freely as believers is the total forgiveness of all our sins. Jesus Christ has taken care of everything that is wrong with us. All our sins past, present, and future have been paid for a dealt with by the blood of Christ. Not only to we want to understand how our total forgiveness was accomplished, but we also want to consider some practical questions and applications of this reality.
 - Why do we still sin?
 - What should we do when we sin?
 - Does God punish me when I sin?

Ephesians 1:7

- “In whom”—in the context who is this statement referring to? The “beloved” in whom we have been made accepted in verse 6. Who is the “beloved?” Jesus Christ. So now in verse 7 we are going to learn more about what is true of us in Jesus Christ.
- “we have redemption”—present tense, right now as a present possession. In the “beloved” not only are we accepted but we also have redemption. What is redemption?
- The Greek word translated “redemption” here in Ephesians 1:7 basically means: a releasing effected by payment of ransom, or liberation produced by the payment of a ransom.
- According to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* the English word “redemption” carries the following meanings:
 - 1) Repurchase of captured goods or prisoners; the act of procuring the deliverance of persons or things from the possession and power of captors by the payment of an equivalent; ransom; release; as the redemption of prisoners taken in war; the redemption of a ship and cargo.
 - 2) Deliverance from bondage, distress, or from liability to any evil or forfeiture, either by money, labor or other means.

- 6) In theology, the purchase of God's favor by the death and sufferings of Christ; the ransom or deliverance of sinners from the bondage of sin and the penalties of God's violated law by the atonement of Christ.
- Romans 3:24—The *Scofield Reference Bible* contains a useful footnote on verse 24 that helps explain the issue of our “redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” According to Scofield there are three terms associated with redemption that help explain the concept.
 - *Agorazo*—“to purchase in the market.” The underlying thought is of a slave-market. The subject of redemption are “sold under sin” (Rom. 7:14)
 - *Exagorazo*—“to buy out of the market.” The redeemed are never again exposed to sale.
 - *Lutroo*—“to loose,” to set free by paying a price. (Gal. 4:5)
- Ephesians 1:7—“through his blood”—the purchase price of our redemption was the blood of the redeemer who died in our stead. It was through the shed blood of Jesus Christ that the offended justice of God against our sin was satisfied and through which the purchase price of our redemption was paid.
 - Romans 3:25—“through faith in his blood”—when believe Jesus Christ shed his blood and died in our place for our sins we are set free, loosed, and redeemed out of the market place of sin.
 - Colossians 1:14—it is only through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ that we can have redemption and forgiveness of sins.
- Ephesians 1:7—show us the effect of our redemption. “Redemption through his blood” equates to or results in “the forgiveness of sins.”
- The Greek word translated “forgiveness” means: 1) release from bondage or imprisonment, 2) forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty, according to *Strong's Concordance*.
- The English word “forgiveness” means: 1) The act of forgiving; the pardon of an offender, by which he is considered and treated as not guilty, 2) The pardon or remission of an offense or crime; as the forgiveness of sin or of injuries, according to *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*.
- Based upon the redemption we have through the blood of Christ not only we will never return to the market place of sin but our sins are forgiven as though they were never committed and we are treated as not guilty.
- “SinS”—please note that we have not just been forgiven of “sin” but all of our “sins.” All our sins, past, present, and future have been forgiven under the blood of Jesus Christ. Believers enjoy a state of total and complete forgiveness in Jesus Christ. All our sins have been paid for.
 - Colossians 1:14

- Colossians 2:13—“having forgiven you all trespasses.” How many is all? Every single last one.
- When Jesus died on the cross some 2,000 years ago in our stead all our sins were future. We need to pray the reality of this truth into our lives we are 100% totally forgiven of all our sins past, present, and future. We are justified, redeemed, glorified, blameless, at peace with God, accepted, and forgiven in the beloved.

Why Do We Still Sin?

- Romans 5:20—does this mean that because we saved by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ we should willfully sin? Religious people are scared to teach people grace because they fear the grace is license to sin.
- Romans 6:1-2—for the believer grace is not designed to be a license to sin but the wellspring and motivating principles for living Godly in Christ Jesus.
 - Titus 2:11-12
- I Thessalonians 5:23—every human being possesses a body, a soul, and a spirit. Because of original sin, the spirit of the natural man is born dead to the life of God.
- Ephesians 2:1-3—the natural man, or man by nature seeks to fulfill the desires of his fleshly appetites and mind.
- Romans 7:18—our sin nature resides in our flesh. Our default setting when we were born was to sin. That is the only thing we knew how to do.
- Colossians 2:11—when you trusted the shed blood of Christ as the only payment for your sins God performed a spiritual operation on you whereby your soul and spirit were cut away from the “the body of the sins of flesh.”
- Before you were saved your core programming was hard wired to your flesh, old nature, or old man. Now that you are saved you have been rewired, reprogrammed, and given a new nature, i.e., the new man.
- Romans 6:11-15—before we trusted Christ we had no choice but to yield our members as instruments of unrighteousness. Now because of the circumcision made without hands and the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit we have the capacity to yield our members as instruments of righteousness unto God.
- Even though our soul and spirit have been redeemed and cut away from the flesh as long as we are on earth we still reside in a sinful flesh that only know how to do one thing sin. The reason

we still sin even though we have been totally forgiven is because it is so easy to fall back into our default setting and programming and walk after the flesh and not after the Spirit.