

Sunday, February 10, 2013—The Things Freely Given Us of God—Total Forgiveness, Part 4

Introduction/Review

- Over the past three weeks we have been talking about Ephesians 1:7 and what it means to possess the total forgiveness of all 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 2:13—“having forgiven you all trespasses.” How many is all?
- In studying through the practical side of this glorious truth we have sought to answer the following questions.
 - If I am totally forgiven why do I still sin?
 - When I sin do I need to confess my sins according to I John 1:9 to restore my fellowship with God?
 - Does daily confession bring victory over sin?
 - Does God spank us or punish us physically when we sin?
- When we had to quite last Sunday we had just concluded that God does not punish us physically when we sin. I would like to begin this morning’s study with reviewing the reasons why.

Does God Spank Us When We Sin?

- Hebrews 12:5-11—see whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth
 - Scourgeth—means to flog or beat with a whip
- Hebrews 1:1-2—the readership of Hebrews has a reference point in God’s prophetic history. The writer of Hebrews is drawing their attention to some things they had already been taught.

Two Important Definitions

- To properly understand this issue we must first look at how the Bible defines Chastisement. When we do we find that there are two forms of chastisement found in the Scriptures.
- Psalm 94:10-12—the first definition is that of correction. This type of correction takes the form of instruction, the law provided correction which is a form of chastisement. Therefore, the first definition simply means to educate or inform with the goal of correcting.
- Proverbs 3:11-12—Once again we see chastisement associated with correction.
- This second definition deals with keeping the law and fearing the punishment of God that is outlined in the Law. This is the form of Chastisement that believers are taught is in effect today.

- Deuteronomy 28
 - Verses 1-14—delineate a series of blessings that would be given to Israel for following the Law.
 - Verses 15-44—delineate a series of curses that would come upon Israel for their failure to comply. The Law contract said they would be cursed for disobedience.
- Deuteronomy 28:45—these curses would designed by God to pursue after them until they were destroyed.
- Deuteronomy 28:46—this system of curses was to serve as a sign, that is a flag or indicator that would tell the nation where they were at with their relationship with God. So where does the idea come from that God will punishment me for my sin? The Bible
 - Isaiah 26:16-17—Tribulation context
 - Jeremiah 30:11-14, 31:18
 - Hosea 7:11-12, 10:9-10
- Who is it that requires a sign? I Corinthians 1:22—the Jews require a sign.

Upon What Basis?

- Upon what basis would God deal with the Body of Christ this fashion?
- Ephesians 1:7—we have redemption through his blood the forgiveness of sins.
- Romans 5:1—based on the merits of his son God is at peace with us. If God is a peace with us he upon what basis would he punish us. He already punished his son in our place.
- Romans 6:14-15—we are not under the Law system. Therefore, we are not under the sign program. The things that happen to us are not indicative of God's favor or disfavor with us.
- Romans 8:1—we are blameless (Eph. 1:4) and no longer under condemnation.
- Colossians 2:13—believers have already been forgiven all trespasses why would God punish us for things for which we have already been forgiven?
- II Corinthians 5:19—if God is not even imputing men's trespass unto them today during the dispensation of grace upon what basis is God judging or punishing anyone saved or unsaved.
- Does this mean that we don't need correction? Come back next week and find out.

What About Suffering?

- In order to determine what form our chastening takes today let us first consider what the Bible and more specifically what Paul teaches about the issue of suffering. Do saints suffer today? Does that mean that God is punishing you for failing to obey his word?

- I Corinthians 10:13—there is nothing in your life that you will experience that is not common to man. No one today is given any type of special trial or testing.
- No one today is immune from suffering. It is part of the human experience of living in a sin cursed world.
- Job 5:6-7—suffering comes upon all men because of the curse of sin.
- Job 14:1—suffering and trouble is common to all men.
- Ecclesiastes 2:22-23—we are part of a suffering tradition it is called the human race.
- Suffering can also be self inflicted.
- I Peter 4:13-16—the only suffering we can rejoice in is suffering for the cause of Christ.
- Philippians 1:28-29—suffering is a privilege part of what God is doing. We can expect suffering as believers because we live in a world system that is anti-God. Is this verse teaching the same thing we saw in Duet. 28? Did God tell Israel that they could rejoice in their suffering? During this current Dispensation of Grace suffering is a gift from heaven designed to conform us into the image of Jesus Christ.
- II Corinthians 1:4-5—God is not chastening us the way Israel was in time past.
- Romans 5:3-5
- II Corinthians 4:8-11—our sufferings are not designed to destroy us. Rather they are opportunities for the life of Christ to be made manifest in our mortal flesh.
- II Corinthians 4:16-18—God is not working in the realm of what can see but what we cannot see.
- God is not chastening members of the Body of Christ in the outward physical way like he chastened Israel in Time Past. Why? God is at work in the believer to change the believer from the inside out. Physical chastisement was part of Israel's program designed by God to destroy them for their disobedience.
- Today suffering and trouble is not a sign of God's favor or disfavor. Rather suffering provides a chance to let the life of Christ be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

Chastening Today

- I Corinthians 11:32—we need to judge ourselves through the Word of God.
- I Corinthians 2:14-16—we are all in possession of the mind of Christ. We need to use the mind we have been given and judge ourselves in light of the word of God.

- I Thessalonians 5:21
- Philippians 1:9-10
- I Corinthians 11:31-32—if we don't judge ourselves other saints will. When believers are judged Paul says that it is the chastening of the Lord.
- Galatians 6:1

How It Works?

- I Timothy 1:20—"that they may learn"
- II Timothy 2:25-26—"instructing"
- Titus 2:12—"teaching"
- II Timothy 3:15-16—"correction and instruction in righteousness"
- God is chastening believers today through the Word of God as well as through other believers. Our chastening is according to the first type, correction by instruction.