

The Extent of God's Forgiveness

Set the Stage

-In this study, we want to answer some great questions that have come up.

-What does God's forgiveness cover in our lives?

-Is it only our past sins? What about when we sin after we are saved?

-How can I be saved if I am still sinning?

-Are we no longer saved when we continue to sin? If not, how can that be possible?

-How can God forgive me when I keep going back to those same sins?

-Paul writes the book of Romans to provide a detailed teaching on what biblical salvation is. He discusses in great detail what happens the moment a person calls on Jesus Christ to save them.

-He teaches the extent of God's forgiveness in our lives.

-The key to understanding the extent of God's forgiveness is understanding what Jesus accomplished on the cross.

Read Romans 3:22-24; 5:1-14

Take it to the Next Level

In discovering the extent of God's forgiveness, first, we see...

1. God offers Forgiveness Freely to You (1)

A. We are forgiven freely by faith.

-3:24- "Justified freely by his grace (free gift) through the redemption (Penalty has been paid) that is in Jesus Christ."

-We are justified or freely forgiven by faith in Jesus Christ.

-Faith in Jesus is what justifies us. At the very moment you call on Jesus Christ to save you, you are justified.

-Justification is God's legal transaction where He forgives all our sin and gives us Jesus' righteousness or sinless record.

-It is justification that allows sinners to be declared righteous in God's sight.

-Notice- "**declared**" not "**made**" righteous.

-There are two parts to justification.

1. God takes away a negative - our sin

-The forgiveness of sin.

-It covers our past, present, and future sins.

2. God adds a positive - Jesus' sinless life onto our account.

-God imputes or credits Jesus' sinless life on to our account and declares us righteous.

-He does not **make us** righteous but **declares us** righteous.

-What does God see when he looks at you?

-He does not see **what you were** but **what you are**.

-Think of justification as a legal transaction in court.

-God is the judge.

-God has a law and it demands a legal requirement.

-We are all sinners and have broken God's law.

-Romans 3:23

-We are guilty and are sentenced to separation from God and death in hell.

-Romans 6:23

-Jesus Christ died on the cross to take your place.

-He took your guilty sentence.

-Romans 5:8

-Calling on him applies his sinless account to yours.

-Romans 10:13

-Justification is a completed transaction.

-It is not continual or progressive.

-It is one and done.

B. We are forgiven freely by grace

-Grace is simply getting what you do not deserve. It is a free gift.

-We are saved by grace through faith. (Eph. 2:8-9)

-*What were we when Jesus died for us in verse 8?*

-Sinners

-God's forgiveness is not based on how bad or how good you were. It is based on justification which is complete.

-Psalm 103:12 *"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."*

-North and south have poles meaning you would stop at a certain point. East and west do not, therefore, you can never hit an ending point going east or west. God is saying he has forgiven any and every sin that we have or ever will commit.

-Jesus died for us when we were ungodly. He is not asking or demanding that you get everything right before you come to him.

- Since we are forgiven by grace, then our forgiveness is not determined by our efforts or behavior.
- And if it is not determined by our efforts to receive it then it cannot be determined by our effort to keep it.
- If it is not received by our behavior then it can't be lost due to our behavior.
- Salvation is a present possession.
- You are not waiting to be saved. You are already saved.
- You are not waiting to have your sins forgiven. They are already forgiven.

C. We are forgiven freely by the blood of Jesus. (3:25 5:9)

- God's law requires justice. There cannot be a work around.
- Justification required a legal satisfaction
- We can be forgiven freely because Jesus' blood (sacrifice) was 100% accepted which means we are 100% forgiven.
- The entire Old Testament revealed that sin must be covered by blood.
- Hebrews 9:22; 10:1-14
- It was the sinless blood of Jesus that 100% satisfied the justice of God. It fulfilled the legal requirements to have our sins forgiven.
- You are not just forgiven because God chose to, but because Jesus sacrificed his life for you.
- You are not just forgiven because God loves you, but because Jesus' blood satisfied God's law.

In discovering the extent of God's forgiveness, second, we see...

2. God Offers Forgiveness Completely to You (8)

A. Forgiveness produces peace. (5:1)

-The result of justification is what in 5:1?

-Peace with God!

-So before we are justified we didn't have peace with God.

-*Why?* Because of our sin.

-Sin separates us from God and makes us an enemy of God. We are against him.

-You can have mental rest, a quiet heart.

B. Forgiveness produces access. (5:2)

-Justification gives you access to God.

-Justification gives you a new standing.

-Before Jesus, you were standing as a sinner guilty and condemned.

-After Jesus, you are standing as a sinner not guilty and uncondemned.

C. Forgiveness must not be abused (6:1-2)

-God has declared us sinless, He has not made us sinless.

-You will still sin after you are saved.

-Romans 7:14-21

-You have both the flesh and the spirit.

-Galatians 5:17 *"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."*

-We cannot use forgiveness as an excuse to do whatever we want to.

-Why is that? Why can we not sin whenever we want to since we know we are forgiven?

-Its abusing the gift of forgiveness. It's mocking the death of Jesus.

-It breaks our relationship with him.

-It is hypocritical. We say one thing, but act another way.

D. Forgiveness must be realized (8:1-2)

- You need to live in the victory that Jesus has provided.
- You can be free from the sins that have a hold on you.

- You need to live in the freedom that Jesus has provided.
- He has freed you from the guilt of your past.
- He has freed you from the control of Satan in your life.

- You need to live in the joy that Jesus has provided.
- You can live a joy-filled life despite your short comings and flaws.
- Why? You have been freely forgiven.**
- Who are you? Innocent!**

Taking your next step

In discovering the extent of God's forgiveness, we must:

1. Stop using God's forgiveness as an excuse to sin.
 - We cannot abuse the grace of God in our lives.

2. Strive to be more like Jesus.
 - The more you become like Jesus, the less you will sin.

3. Live in the freedom of God's forgiveness.
 - Hold your head up and live in victory.

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