

Our Spiritual Blessings in Christ
Part 3 – Praise God for Forgiving Our Sins
Ephesians 1:7,8

Introduction:

- A. The greatest experience in the world
 - 1. To be truly l_____ in spite of our faults and peculiarities.
 - 2. To be truly f_____ by someone that you regrettably wronged.
- B. Forgiveness is often a misunderstood term
 - 1. Forgiveness in the Bible translates a Greek word that is used 17 times in the New Testament.
 - a. 15 times it is translated as forgiveness
 - b. Twice it is translated differently (see Lk 4:18) - as r_____ and to set f_____
 - 2. The most basic meaning is the freeing or releasing from something.
 - 3. Rightly understanding our forgiveness in Christ will give us a greater appreciation for this spiritual blessing.

Forgiveness was purchased with a price – *redemption through Christ's b_____.*

In Him [i.e. Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses.

- A. Forgiveness is expensive
 - 1. It had to be purchased by G_____
 - 2. It required b_____ (Heb 9:22)
 - a. Under the Old Testament law, blood had to be shed to atone for sin. But this was not t_____ forgiveness (Heb 10:4)
 - b. Only the blood of Jesus could take away sins (Jn 1:29 – Behold the L_____ of God who takes away the sin of the world)
- B. The shedding of blood
 - 1. It is more than just b_____ from the skin
 - a. Jesus was s_____ with a three-prong whip having pieces of metal or bone at the end of each.
 - b. Jesus was given blows to the head while He was wearing a crown of t_____.
 - c. Jesus hands and feet were n_____ to the cross.
 - 2. It is the giving up of one's l_____.

- C. What did Jesus's blood payment cover?
1. A _____ sacrifices had to be made often because it only dealt with past sins.
 2. Jesus died only o _____ and so His payment is for all sins of all believers for all time (1Pet 3:18; Heb 9:12)
- D. What does Eph 1:7 mean by trespasses?
1. Literal meaning – to f _____ beside and pictures a person missing the path that God wants us to be on.
 2. Similar to the definition of sin which translates a Greek word that means to miss the m _____ that God wants us to hit.
 3. What path does God want us to walk? What mark does He want us to hit?
 - a. It is more than being m _____ or being nice to others.
 - b. It is about living in d _____ upon Jesus (Jn 15:5)

Forgiveness is given as a gift – according the riches of His g _____, which He lavished upon us

- A. Only _____ Christ is there forgiveness.
1. Outside of Christ, there is only c _____ (Jn 3:17)
 2. Forgiveness is an und _____ gift (grace – see Rom 11:6)
 3. Forgiveness is l _____ on us
- B. No sin or combinations of sins are too great to be forgiven, otherwise grace would not be lavished on us.

Forgiveness f _____ us from sin not to sin – redemption

- A. The Greek translated as redemption
1. Refers to the p _____ made
 2. Refers to the r _____ effect (NLT – *He purchased our freedom*). – see this word in Heb 11:35 (*some were tortured and refused to accept release.*)
- B. Some attempt to use forgiveness as an excuse to sin
1. Rom 6:1,2 asks a question. What is the implied answer? (*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?* _____)
 2. Those that look for l _____ have not received God's forgiveness.

- C. God's gift of forgiveness contains life-c_____ power.
1. It frees you from enslavement to sin so that you can o_____ it.
 2. It frees you from living in relationship to sin to living in relationship to J_____
 3. It instills a response of l_____ (Lk 7:41-43)
- D. What is your testimony of the life-changing power of God's forgiveness?
1. What was your life before you accepted Christ?
 2. What circumstances led you to accept Christ?
 3. How has Christ made a difference in your life?

Conclusion - You can use Eph 1:7 as an outline of praise to God for the forgiveness of your sins:

- 1) Praise God that Jesus purchased forgiveness through His bloody suffering and death
- 2) Praise God for giving that forgiveness to me as a gift when I received Jesus as my God and Savior
- 3) Praise God for the life-changing power of His forgiveness that freed me from my sinful self to live out my loving relationship with Jesus in all that I do, say, and think.