

FORGIVEN BUT NOT SAVED

Colossians 1:14

Verse 14

¹⁴ **in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

This brings us to a very important theological issue and a vital part of the gospel and Eternal life Salvation and yet forgiveness will come up again in Colossians.

Colossians 2:13

¹³ **When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,**

It is so important that we understand Forgiveness from God, for that is the pattern of our forgiving One Another forgiving others of their sins and ill treatment of you.

Colossians 3:13

¹³ **bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.**

Here we will discover that forgiving One Another is vital to our relationships in life with One Another as it is between us and God.

So it is imperative that we understand FORGIVENESS from God, **so that we can and will forgive One Another**. The unbelieving world has a much easier time of forgiving and they have no foundation for forgiving while most Christians have a difficult time with forgiveness and we have a solid foundation and we are recipients of forgiveness from God. So let us learn about **forgiveness** from God.

The principle of the legal, Divine Forgiveness is no different from the principle of personal forgiveness. So we must correctly understand Divine Forgiveness to know how to forgive in our personal relationships with others: family, church, work, social, in all areas of our lives.

I. The Gospel and Forgiveness of Sins

1. It is so vital that we understand **THE GOSPEL**. Almost every preacher, teacher will talk about the gospel, but they do not mean the same thing as the Bible teaches. I know multitude of preachers, priest who teach a Salvation by works and they call it the gospel and they said it is by Grace! If it is of works it is not grace.

Romans 11:6

⁶ **But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.**

So it is essential to our Christian life to correctly understand the gospel: to be saved and to tell others how to be saved by grace through faith.

II. Why the need of the gospel?

1. Let us start with understanding there are two parts to the gospel as far as the unbeliever is concerned. One is a **negative** and the other is a **positive**.
2. The **negative** is what we are noting here: **forgiveness of all personal sins**. There is nothing we can do to cause God to forgive us of our sins. There are no works or amount of works we can do to be forgiven of our sins. **FORGIVENESS OF SINS IS BY THE PERSONAL CROSS WORK OF JESUS CHRIST.** This is what He accomplished on the cross. **Isaiah 53** is an excellent place to study in detail all that JESUS CHRIST did on the cross. **But the major issue of the cross is that JESUS CHRIST bore the judgment for all the sins of the world.**
3. We must understand the damage of sin, just how horrible sins really are. Sin demands payment; sin demands divine punishment because it is a violation of God's perfect Righteousness. So many people are caught up in the Love of God but we must remember that He is also perfect Righteousness.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death This is talking about SPIRITUAL DEATH and everyone since Adam has been born Spiritual dead and therefore cannot pay the wages of sin.

4. But JESUS CHRIST was born Spiritually alive as well as physically alive, and **was therefore qualified** to pay the wages of sin for the entire human race. **If He would render His soul as a guilt offering (Isaiah 53:10)** which He did on the cross. Which brings up another very important point of doctrine on the relationship between God the Father and His Son, JESUS CHRIST.

In Colossians **1:13** JESUS CHRIST is referred to as **His beloved Son**. Do you know why JESUS CHRIST is loved of God the Father? Look at **John 10:17**

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“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life (My soul) so that I may take it again.

So God the Father loves JESUS CHRIST because JESUS CHRIST laid down His soul as a ransom for the wages of sin of the whole human race.

Acts 5:31

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“He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Romans 8:3

³ **For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,**

5. He took away the sin problem on the cross, for everyone. Everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior is forgiven of sins and everyone who does not believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior is forgiven of sins. But this does not mean they are saved. This is why it is called the negative of the gospel. It removes the sin barrier between God and man but does not save.
6. The issue for salvation is the **positive side of the gospel**. Being perfectly Righteous as He is Righteous **“Be Holy as I am Holy”**, or **1 Peter 1:16 You shall be holy for I am holy**. That the issue of being Righteous is clearly seen from the 10 questions of Job.

The issue is not personal sins (*Christ took care of that on the cross*) the issue is **God’s Perfect Righteousness** and our un-righteousness.

How can we be Righteous as God is Righteous?

How can we be Holy as God is Holy?

7. Ten Questions of Job point out the need of our salvation.

- 1 Can mankind be Just (Righteous) before God? Job 4:17
- 2 Can a man be Pure before His maker? Job 4:17
- 3 Does God pervert Justice? (save one who is unRighteous)
Job 8:3
- 4 Does the Almighty pervert what is Right? Job 8:3
- 5 How can a man be Right or Righteous before God?
Job 9:2
- 6 Who can make the Clean out of the Unclean?
No one. Job 14:4
- 7 What is man that he should be Pure? Job 15:14
- 8 Or he who is born of a woman that he should be Righteous? Job 15:14
- 9 How then can a man be Just with God? Job 25:4
10. Or how can he be Clean who is born of woman?
(ISN-Inherited Sin Nature) Job 25:4

8. The issue is not our sins but the absence of Perfect Righteousness before a Righteous God.

Being Sinless does not save. But our sins must be forgiven and they were forgiven on the cross. When presenting their view of the gospel or how to be saved many people say you have to ask God to forgive you of your sins. First this is not in the Gospel presented in the Word of God.

9. We need two things:
- 1 The **forgiveness of sins**, which everyone has been given at the cross.
 - 2 The presence of the **Perfect Righteousness of God**, which God imputes to everyone who believes.

Romans 3:22

²² **even *the* righteousness of God through faith** (by means of faith) **in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;** (between Jew and Gentile) This has always been the issue and Faith has always been the only way anyone can be righteous before God.

Romans 4:3

³ **For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”**

Romans 4:5

⁵ **But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, (note carefully the word **credited.**)**

This is the Greek word for **IMPUTATION** When one puts their Faith in JESUS CHRIST, God imputes them with His Perfect Righteousness and they are at that point Justified. We are not Justified by forgiveness of sins, we are justified with we are imputed God’s Perfect Righteousness.

Romans 4:6

⁶ **just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:**

The Gospel has always been by Faith alone in the Messiah alone; Abraham and David understood this aspect of the Gospel.

Romans 4:9

⁹ **Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”** (before he was circumcised.)

Romans 4:11

¹¹ **and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith** (not the way to righteousness but as a seal of righteousness, he had already been imputed.) **which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,** note again, credited—imputed Righteousness by Faith alone.

People it is so important that our sins were forgiven on the cross, but **we are not imputed righteousness by the forgiveness of sins, we are imputed righteousness by Faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.**

The Gospel includes both:

the **negative** forgiveness of sins, (which everyone receives by the work of JESUS CHRIST on the cross;) and

the **positive**, (the imputation of perfect Righteousness) which is by Faith in JESUS CHRIST.

Romans 4:22

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Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED (IMPUTED) TO HIM (ABRAHAM) AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

III. Etymology of Forgiveness.

There are two primary words for 'forgiveness'

charizomai and **aphiemi** our word **aphesis** which is from **aphiemi**

- 1 Both used of God.
- 2 Both used of man.
- 3 Both go back to forgiveness that came at cross.
- 4 Both used in the context of forgiveness that leads to RECONCILIATION. Here in Colossians 3:13 and Ephesians 4:32

charizomai forgiving

- 1 Used where God is one forgiving and where man is one forgiving
- 2 Used in context of forgiving Unbeliever and Believer.
- 3 Used in context of forgiveness at CROSS.
- 4 Used in context of **Reconciliation**

Charizomai from root **charis** –grace...joy...

- 1 Give freely or graciously as a favor;
- 2 Give or remit –forgive or pardon...[throughout we will deal with the definitions of these words that mean FORGIVENESS for both are used in other context]
example:

Charizomai is used 24 times in 19 verses, but only 8 are in context of FORGIVENESS.

This word means to pardon, remit and forgive;

aphiemi means to let go; send away—as in divorce; leave, freedom; give up, abandon and to cancel, remit, pardon, to let go from one's self; dismiss, remission.

This word is used: 156 times in 132 verses but only some 38 are in context of FORGIVENESS.

In a Semantic Domain Lexicon... *By Louw and Nida*;
both words are under Domain of Reconciliation, and Forgiveness.

A very important point about **forgiveness** in the Word of God:
WITH FORGIVENESS COMES THE OFFER OF RECONCILIATION.

1. Begin with a friendly relationship: in harmony...
2. Then the disruption of this relationship due to a wrong or sin, some complaint, some provocation... real or presumed.
3. This disruption leads to an interruption —end—stoppage; to current friendly function or service and involves hostility, enmity, anger, strife, hate, resentment and vengeance...
4. And by PROCESS of RECONCILIATION that removes all this hate and hostility: this process is not to act as if the offense or sin or complaint never occurred for it did occur and something must be done. THIS IS PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION—all that must be done to remove barrier and restore the relationship and function of that relationship.
5. THIS PROCESS involves FORGIVENESS. The barrier is removed by the PROCESS of FORGIVENESS!

A very important point about forgiveness in the Word of God:
With forgiveness comes the offer of Reconciliation.

Now what happens with FORGIVENESS:

1. We are released from the penalty of sin **RELEASED FROM PENALTY OF SIN**; (as believers this involves the release from the Power of Sin)
2. As a believer or as an unbeliever in forgiveness we are **Released from the Guilt of Sin**. JESUS CHRIST became a **guilt offering for all the human race**.

Isaiah 53:10

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But the LORD (GOD THE FATHER) **was pleased To crush Him,** (JESUS CHRIST and this crushing presents Spiritual death of JESUS CHRIST) **putting Him to grief** (sickness of the guilt of sin;) **If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,** therefore, we have no right to feel guilty; JESUS CHRIST was our guilt offering to the Holiness of God. The remainder of the verse is the blessing JESUS CHRIST received from God the Father for presenting Himself as a guilt offering. **He will see His offspring,** (all those who believe in Him.) **He will prolong His days,** (for all eternity, after resurrection.) **And the good pleasure of the LORD** (God the Father) **will prosper in His hand.** All that JESUS CHRIST asked for in the Lord's Prayer in John 17 and so much more.

3. RESTORED positionally as unbelievers and Restored experientially as believers.

Another Lexicon: Herman Cremer –in his lexicon: adds this of **aphiemi** “to send away, to dismiss, to set free; to express discharge or acquittal of an accused; ...with or without a judicial sentence, all charges fall to the ground; punishment is removed and the guilty person is dealt with as innocent.”

REMEMBER—THIS IS WAY WE ARE TO FORGIVE One Another.

Then Cremer adds something that is most insightful: “this word is used with propitiation or atonement; dropping of legal claims upon man! Forgiveness is Letting go of all guilty claims. This is very important to realize for the Unbeliever. **No Unbeliever will stand at the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Millennium for his/her sins. They are there because they have refused to believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.**

If God did not forgive all sins at the cross, then the unbeliever would stand in judgment for his sins. But this is not the case. No unbeliever will ever have to pay for his/her sins. They will be eternally separated from God because they did not believe in JESUS CHRIST.

So if anyone tries to tell you that JESUS CHRIST did not pay for the sins of all unbelievers, this would mean they are judged for their sins, which by the way is what a lot of preachers preach. But the Book of Revelation is clear on the basis of their judgment—not their sins, but their works that they put in place of just believing in JESUS CHRIST.

Revelation 20:11

¹¹ **Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.**
(description of the Great White Throne Judgment)

12 **And I saw the dead, (all unbelievers) the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. (Not their sins.)**

Their works, those good works that they were depending on instead of believing in JESUS CHRIST as Savior. And if you wonder why this wrath from God toward all who refuse to believe in JESUS CHRIST, just read Isaiah 53. Revelation 20:13-15

13 **And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds.**

14 **Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.** People today are so occupied with the Love of God, but they better be aware of the wrath of God. Those in the lake of fire will be there forever and ever.

Revelation 20:10

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

15 **And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.** Please be thankful everyday for the forgiveness of sins at the cross

The pattern for Divine forgiveness is found in **Isaiah 43:25**

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“I, even I, (God) am the one who wipes out your transgressions (forgiveness of sins) for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Two major points on forgiveness from Isaiah 43:25.

First He forgives for His own sake, for His own benefit. **Because God forgives, He can now save all who believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.** When we come to Colossians 3:13 we will see how important forgiveness of others is to your own spiritual life. This is why we will cover such things as forgiving someone who has died. That is right, many Christians are not able to move on in the Plan of God because in their soul they carry hatred and resentment toward someone who has died. Forgiveness is for your benefit as well as for the one you are forgiving.

Second Once you have forgiven, you forget that act for which you are forgiving someone. **Always remember that you can have a relationship with God, because your sins were forgiven on the cross of JESUS CHRIST.**

IV. Forgiveness of Sins and the Resurrection

The Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST is directly related to forgiveness of sins.

1 Corinthians 15:12-22

12	Now if Christ is preached, (and He is so preached) that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?
13	But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;
14	and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, <u>your faith also is vain.</u>
15	Moreover we are even found <i>to be</i> false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.
16	For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;
17	and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; <u>you are still in your sins.</u> Here is the biblical proof that the resurrection is necessary for the completion of Forgiveness of sin.
18	Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
19	If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.
20	But now Christ has been raised from the dead, (and therefore forgiveness of sins is guaranteed, by His resurrection.) the first fruits of those who are asleep.
21	For since by a man <i>came</i> death, by a man also <i>came</i> the resurrection of the dead.
22	For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made

V. What forgiveness of sins does not accomplish

- 1 Forgiveness of sins does not result in Salvation.
- 2 For there to be salvation, there must be the imputation of Righteousness, which comes only by Faith in JESUS CHRIST.
- 3 Forgiveness does not result in salvation, for there to be salvation there must be personal Faith in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.
- 4 Forgiveness does not automatically result in reconciliation, Forgiveness always sets up the opportunity for reconciliation and fellowship but does not automatically mean reconciliation. Reconciliation comes by Faith in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.
- 5 Forgiveness takes away the wrath of God for sins but does not take away the wrath of God for refusing to believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.
- 6 For believers in JESUS CHRIST, forgiveness does not mean there will not be discipline in the believers life.

VI Forgiveness of sins from God is the pattern by which we are to forgive One Another.

Ephesians 4:32

32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

The basis of God’s forgiveness is the work of Christ on the cross.

Colossians 3:12-13

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

It is so difficult for many believers to forgive another believer, especially if the sin or offense really hurts. And another reason why it is so difficult for one believer to forgive another is that we can not cleanse them, we cannot be sure they will not do it again.

This motivated Peter to ask how often he should forgive? Seven times—which seemed a lot to Peter, but the Lord responded forgiven up to seventy times seven.

We will study believers forgiving One Another in Colossians 3:13.

You have to make up your mind:

Is Christ sufficient for all your needs?

Or do you have to have other things or something else?

**This book is about the Sufficiency of JESUS CHRIST:
to God the Father;
and to you?**

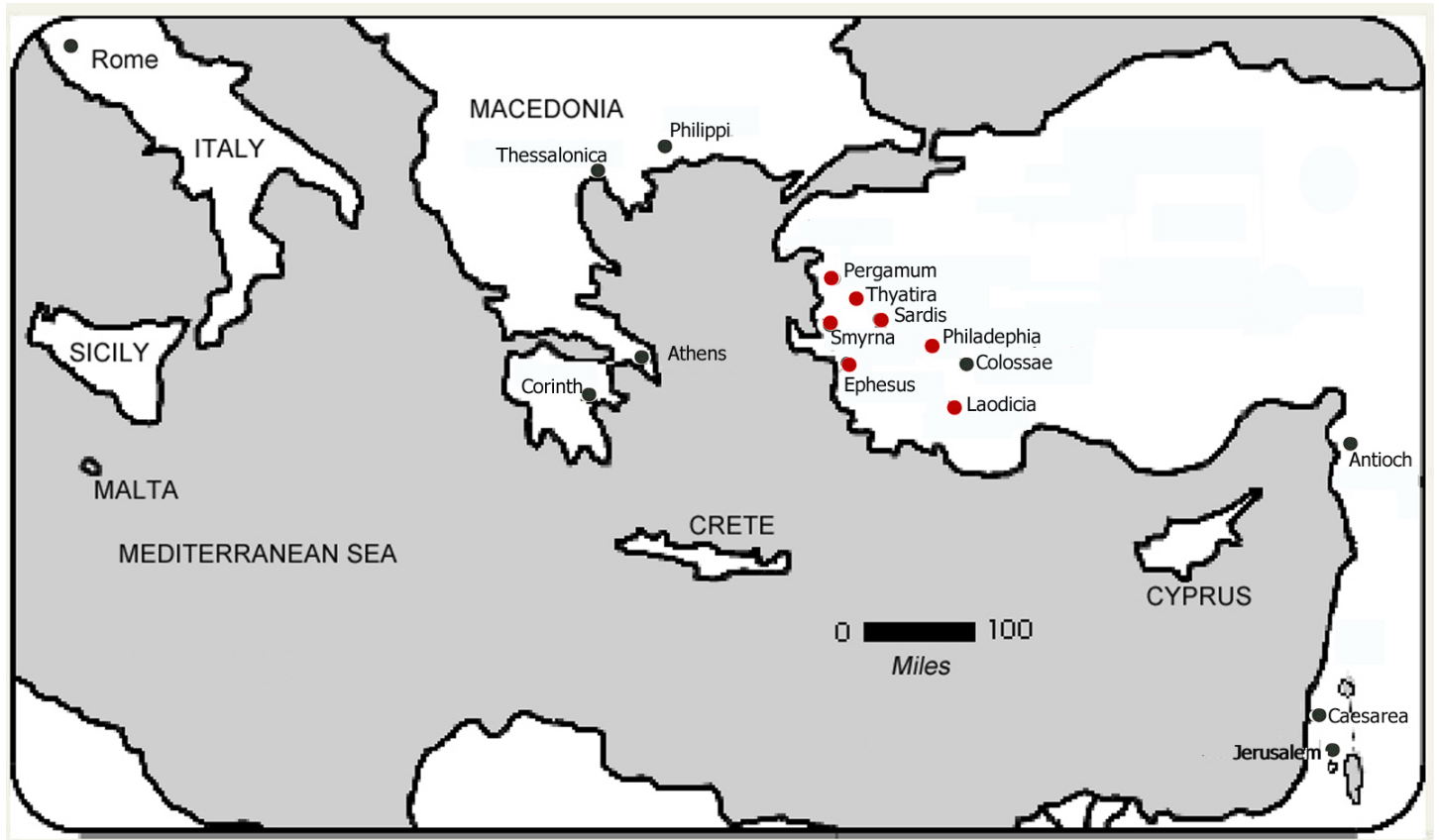
Is the Word of God sufficient for you?

Sufficient to bring you to JESUS CHRIST?

Sufficient to bring you to God the Father?

Is the World of God sufficient for **SAD** (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*) in
your life or do you need outside help?

So we learn so much from the true understanding of the Gospel.



*Only one life,' twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.*