

## The Gospel and Forgiveness

- I. 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 a multitude of preachers 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 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.

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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 Spiritually dead and therefore cannot pay the wages of sin, except for Jesus Christ who was born physically alive and spiritually alive.

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 “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.

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**Acts 5:31**“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** 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 not forgiven of sins but they are removed from sins, from the punishment 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*. 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. For this we need the Gospel. How can we be Righteous as God is Righteous? How can we be Holy as God is Holy?

7. The 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

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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? (born ISN-Inherited Sin Nature) Job 25:4
8. The issue now 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. Secondly, Jesus Christ bore the judgment of sins for sins, they are no longer an issue. Now the only issue is not sins but perfectly righteous.
9. We need two things for eternal salvation:
- (1) The forgiveness of sins, which can be taken care of at the cross.

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- (2) The presence of the Perfect Righteousness of God, which God imputes to everyone who believes.

**Romans 3:22 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 For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”**

**Romans 4:5 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 verb is in the passive voice –meaning the subject receives the action. Here, the person who has faith receives the credit, or reckoned as righteousness. This is the only way we can ever be righteous before God.

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 when we are imputed God’s Perfect Righteousness by faith on Jesus Christ.

**Romans 4:6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:**

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Please notice this is the Old Testament and in the New Testament.

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

**Romans 4:9 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 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 or 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, and

the positive, (the imputation of perfect Righteousness) which is by Faith in Jesus Christ.

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**Romans 4:22 Therefore it was also credited imputed to him Abraham as righteousness.**

III. Etymology of Remission and Forgiveness of sins.

There are two primary words for important New Testament study: *charizomai* and *aphiemi*. Our word is *aphesis* which is from the verb *aphiemi*

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

*Charizomai* to be gracious

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 the 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...

This word means to pardon, remit and forgive;

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*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.

IV. With forgiveness comes the offer of reconciliation.

Let's note the procedure of this issue:

1. Begin with a friendly relationship: in harmony with God...
2. Then the disruption of this relationship due to a wrong or sin, some complaint, some provocation...
3. This disruption leads to an interruption of the relationship—ends that friendship—stoppage of relationship to current friendly function or service and involves hostility, enmity, anger, strife, hate, resentment and vengeance...
4. Humankind is in sin, and there is nothing they can do about their sins. They are separated from God.
5. So, at this point God has His Son to come and die on the cross and pay for the sins of all the human race. Jesus removes sins. This does not result in salvation, it does not result in forgiveness of sins, it simply moves sins from mankind.

**Isaiah 53:10a But the Lord (God the Father) was pleased To crush Him, (Jesus Christ and this crushing, presents the Spiritual death of Jesus) 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



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blessing Jesus Christ received from God the Father for presenting Himself as a guilt offering.

**Isaiah 53:10b 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 given to Him by His Father.)

6. Now the only issue for every human being, is to change their thinking about Jesus Christ. Mankind is *restored* by the death of Jesus Christ. He is restored positionally as unbelievers and restored experientially as believers.
7. 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 Jesus had to die on the cross. This is the process of reconciliation—all that must be done to bring man into fellowship with Jesus Christ.

Another Lexicon: Herman Cremer, in his lexicon adds this of *aphiemi* “to send away, to dismiss, to set free; acquittal of an accused; ...to express the discharge or acquittal of an accused; because with or without a judicial sentence, the charge falls to the ground; or the punishment is remitted and the guilty person is dealt with as if he were innocent.” Then Cremer adds something that is most insightful: this word “is often used in combination 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

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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. Jesus Christ died on the cross, bearing the judgement of all sins. And 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 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)**

**Revelation 20:12 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

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wrath from God toward all who refuse to believe in Jesus Christ, just read Isaiah 53. Revelation 20:13-15

**Revelation 20:13 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.**

**Revelation 20:14 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.**

**Revelation 20:15 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 every day for the forgiveness of sins at the cross and that you are in the eternal book.

8. This process involves forgiveness. The barrier is removed by the Process of Forgiveness! A very important point about forgiveness in the Word of God:

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With forgiveness comes the offer of Reconciliation

9. Many people throughout history do not desire to take reconciliation and therefore never receive forgiveness of sins. They are not troubled by sins, because Jesus bore the sins of mankind on the cross but they reject reconciliation with God and with Jesus Christ.
10. Now all that each individual must do now is simply believe in Jesus Christ as Savior.