

New Testament Forgiveness

The Biblical teaching of the Act of God where He graciously takes away sins between God and man so that man can be in fellowship with God is a deep study of Forgiveness.

We now come to Forgiveness and the New Testament.

There is not a new definition of Forgiveness in the New Testament.

But, there has been a great deal depth added because of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

The first item comes from the teaching of John the Baptist and then the teaching of Jesus.

Let's start with the Apocalypse. This means 'revelation,' an unveiling, or unfolding, not necessarily something new but the fulfillment of the kingdom of David. That is, with the fulfillment of the Kingdom of David, in the coming of the Messiah.

We will begin with the unfolding of the Forgiving of mankind. The coming of John the Baptist would be the brining of new fulfillments of the old days of Jewish history. The coming of John the Baptist was not a new Forgivingness. But he was now looking for the One who will bring repentance, and remission of sins, who would bring the fulfillment of Forgiveness and Repentance in the baptism with the Holy Spirit, that is Jesus the Christ.

Mark 1:4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Baptism was a water ritual began by John, among Jews, for purification. He was in the wilderness, meaning that he was not among the Jewish leaders who were so far from the truth of the Old Testament. He taught

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primarily on repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Suspension of sins or removal from sins. It sets people thinking about Forgiveness of sins, which sets them up for faith in the Messiah, for the giving of perfect Righteousness of God which results in salvation.

Mark 1:8 I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

This, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, was the introduction of the Church Age. Forgiveness of sins and the faith in Messiah were essential in the Age of Israel and in the age of the Church.

The presentation by John the Baptist aroused great interest and wonderment in his proclaiming of forgiveness of sins by redemption through baptism. This caused great interest at the beginning of his teaching, wondering if he were the Messiah, or Elijah or a prophet and by what authority did he speak of baptism and forgiveness of sins.

Then came one Jesus, who after His baptism and promise of forgiveness and the promise of the Holy Spirit, brought many to Him as the promised Messiah, but also gathered multitudes who rejected Him and His message. The beginning of the teaching by Jesus started right after the capture of John the Baptist. The teaching of Jesus also followed the teaching of John the Baptist.

Note:

Mark 1:14 Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of God,

Mark 1:15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

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Be sure you understand the teaching by Jesus. He called on them first to repent—which means to change your view to acceptance of Jesus, and then believe in the gospel. It is amazing the confusion about the word ‘repent.’ The Greek word is *metanoeo* –*meta* – to change plus *noeo* – mind or thinking: to change your thinking and then to believe in Jesus Christ. Repenting does not mean to believe in Jesus. First, you have to change your thinking and then to believe in Jesus. Some change their thinking but instead of believing in Jesus, after changing their thinking they start such things as working or doing something for God.

Next, we start teaching on Forgiveness in this new age by and through the new name of Jesus Christ. The new age, by the work of the Messiah, now known as Jesus, is the man who was crucified, and whose sacrificial death removes sins.

Note in

Acts 13:38 Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

Acts 13:39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed (or justified) from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, (His Spiritual death) we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him

Romans 3:25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This

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**was to demonstrate His righteousness,
because in the forbearance of God He passed
over the sins previously committed;**

Oh, you my dear friends I want so much for you to grasp all that is going on here with the forgiveness of sins in the presence of Jesus Christ. So much is centered on Jesus Christ. So much comes from Jesus' teachings.

First, Jesus' suffering on the cross removes the danger from sins of all people. Simple faith on Jesus Christ for Salvation leads to forgiveness of sins before God. Know carefully that by the work of Jesus on the cross everyone was suspended from punishment due to sins, and forgiveness of sins to everyone who now believes in Jesus Christ. By or through His Spiritual death on the cross, now by an act of faith on Jesus, He justifies us from all sins and by all unrighteousness to God. Jesus Christ suffers for any and every human being by propitiation of God the Father by His blood (by His Spiritual death). We can see the Righteousness of God by Jesus Christ and by faith, that God gives His own Righteousness to all who believe.

Repentance, and a simple act of faith in the Messiah remains in this new age as the removal or suspension of sins. But Jesus advanced on Forgiveness in the New Age: all who repent and believe, are now being forgiven and placed by faith in the Messiah. Now receive the Holy Spirit. After receiving the forgiveness of sins, now receive in the new age by the Holy Spirit. "And in this new age, after his repentance and faith, he not only is forgiven but now he is able, in the power of the Holy Spirit, living in new power, not only is he forgiven but now able to forgive others." (V. Taylor, Forgiveness and Reconciliation (page 1941) pg 1-28)

This is so powerful in Jesus' answer to Peter's question about frequency of forgiveness. Peter, from the Old Testament thinking that he forgives

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sins as many as seven times (Matthew 18:21). But Jesus now teaching in the New Age answered:

Matthew 18:22 “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

Luke 17:3 Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

Luke 17:4 And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”

This is the New Age, new teaching by Jesus. This is how we are to live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The greatness of the New Age is yet to be extended in the New Covenant in the Millennium age. This is why we should remember that Jewish believers in the beginning of the Millennium age are empowered by the Holy Spirit and will not sin at all.

The most frequently used word in Greek in the New Testament for forgiveness is the word *aphiemi* which means to send away, to let go, to disregard, leave behind, remit, or forgive.

1. Used where God is the one forgiving and where man is one forgiving with others and self.
2. Used in context of forgiving unbeliever and believer.
3. Used in context of forgiveness at the cross.
4. Used in context of Reconciliation.

Then there is the Greek verb *charizomai*—to give generously, grant forgive, pardon. This verb is used to stress the graciousness of forgiveness.

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The noun *paresis* giving the idea of passing over, disregarding, letting go unpunished.

Therefore in spite of attempts by the better Lexicons, it is still rather difficult to dogmatically draw distinctions between the words for forgiveness.

There is one attempt to make *aphiemi* more judicial and *charizomai* more relationship; while there is some mild reason for this distinction it must be remembered that *aphiemi* is also used of man—of man doing the forgiving....and man certainly does not have judicial power to forgive.

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 both context.

For example: *Charizomai* is used 24 times in 19 verses but only 8 are in the context of Forgiveness.

aphiemi 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 132 verses but only some 38 are in the context of Forgiveness.

If we study these words, we have a few ideas in forgiveness.

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1. To send away, that is to send away sins of mankind, or disregard these sins against mankind.
2. Another is suspension of punishment. This one can hit hard knowing that our sins would bring us to eternal punishment, but due to the grace of God, He is the taking out suspension of punishment. Remember, why is it that God suspensions our punishment that we deserve? Because the punishment due us is laid on the Jesus Christ. He receives the punishment due to us.
3. Another is to send away—that is sending away of punishment due to us.
4. Another heavy word is that God has graciously forgiven us of our sins.

So here is the heart of what to remember about the forgiveness of God: sends away our sins; suspends punishment and He does these in His Grace.

Definition: we will look at various words used for forgiveness but for a working definition: from Charles Stanley's book on Forgiveness;

“Forgiveness is the act of setting someone free from an obligation to you that is the result of a wrong done against you.”

The procedure of forgiveness:

INJURY-----DEBT-----CANCELLATION

1. There is INJURY—sin, hurt—some complaint.
2. That results in DEBT to you for their sin against you.
3. FORGIVENESS IS CANCELLATION of that DEBT.

Categories of Forgiveness:

- (1) God's forgiving: unbelievers and believers.

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(2) Believers forgiving: other believers and unbelievers and self.

There is so much to grasp in forgiveness to us. For example:

Matthew 12:31 “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.

Luke 3:3 And he came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins;

Luke 24:47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

First we will see something new in forgiveness: it is to be proclaimed in the name of Jesus Christ. Here we have to note the newness of the gospel proclaimed to all nations.

Another importance of forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38).

In the study of forgiveness, we are to forgive one another for several reasons but here is one that few people are aware of:

2 Corinthians 2:7 so that on the other hand, you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a person might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

Another point many are not aware of in forgiving another of their sins is studied in

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James 5:20 let him know that the one who has turned a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

The compassion of forgiveness is from the love of God the Father, and we should be motivated by love in forgiveness:

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another because love covers a multitude of sins.

And from our study in Ephesians:

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

One very important issue about forgiveness: Many believers have a problem with the forgiving One Another because they want their Forgiveness to do things that forgiveness cannot do!

1. We cannot cleanse One Another of their sins or sin nature. So many believers do not want to Forgive another person because they know the other believer will do it again and that troubles them and prevents them from forgiving them.

Cleansing is the Work of God, only God in the Holy Spirit can cleanse another.

2. Our forgiveness cannot take away the sins or failures of others.
3. Our forgiveness cannot save or deliverer from sins...Only God can do these things.

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4. Our forgiveness cannot cover the sins of others...only the spiritual death of Jesus Christ can do this.
5. Our forgiveness does not purify another person.
Only Jesus Christ can do this.
6. Our forgiveness does not propitiate—Only Jesus can do this.

So be sure you understand what your forgiveness can and cannot do. Don't react when you realize that your forgiveness cannot cleanse another believer. Your forgiveness allows God to cleanse your own soul. Your forgiveness can cause your relationship with the other believer to be working before God and your forgiveness can set up the soul of the other believer to be pure before God. It is depends on them at this point.

Be so thankful for forgiveness of your sins!

What happens at the cross in reference to forgiveness?

In other words what about verses that deal with forgiveness with repentance?

Acts 8:22 Therefore, repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart will be forgiven you.

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.

Acts 10:43 Of whom all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

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Acts 13:38 Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

Colossians 1:14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Luke 5:20 And seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you."

Psalms 32:1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!

Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am the one, who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins.

Where does it say that Jesus bore all the sins of the world?

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1 John 2:2 for He Himself is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.