

Lesson Notes:

The Power of Forgiveness

Many struggle with the truth that Christ's shed blood is sufficient atonement for all of our sins no matter how extreme we envision our sin to be. Following are Biblical truths regarding Christ's forgiveness of our sins:

Scriptural Principles

- 1) **Forgiveness follows repentance** – In **2 Chronicles 7:14** God promises Solomon that if the children of Israel will turn from their wicked ways and honor him that we will forgive their sins.
- 2) **Repentance is more than just saying “I’m sorry”. It involves following God’s way.** – In **1 Peter 1:13-15** Peter tells us to grind up ourselves in righteousness and be holy as God is holy.
- 3) **Jesus’ blood paid for all of our sins..** – In **John 1:29** and **1 John 1:7** John tells us that Christ shed his blood so that all of our sins may be forgiven. In **Romans 5:12-21** Paul tells us that Jesus’ Blood is justification for all.
- 4) **God forgives those that come to him in repentance.** – Peter tells the Jewish leaders that forgiveness comes when true repentance is made in **Acts 2:38**. In **1 John 1:9** John tells us that God forgives all who repent.
- 5) **What is the unpardonable sin? – To resist the Holy Spirit’s call to repentance, belief and salvation.** - When Jesus healed a demon possessed man (**Matthew 12:22-23**) his enemies said that his power came not from God but from Satan (**Matthew 12:24**). In **Matthew 12:31** he referred to this as an unpardonable sin because they refused to heed the calling of the Holy Spirit and accept God’ atoning grace.
- 6) **Jesus will forgive extreme sins** – In **Matthew 18:22** Jesus tells Peter to forgive 70 X 7.
- 7) **Jesus challenges us to forgive sin** – In **Matthew 6:14-15** during the Sermon on the Mount Jesus encourages us to forgive those that trespass against us. In the parable of the unforgiving servant (**Matthew 18:21-35**) the servant that refuses to forgive is banished into eternal torment).
- 8) **In 1 Timothy 1:15 Paul said he was the “Chief sinner” and he was forgiven.** – Therefore, God will forgive our sins with full and complete repentance.
- 8) **Forgiveness turns our life around.** – In **James 5:19-20** we see that by forgiving others it can completely turn our lives around.

