

Sunday, January 27, 2013—The Things Freely Given Us of God: Total Forgiveness, Part 2

Introduction/Review

- Last Sunday we studied the realities of our redemption and total forgiveness in Ephesians 1:7.
- Based upon the redemption we have through the blood of Christ not only we will never return to the market place of sin but our sins are forgiven as though they were never committed and we are treated as not guilty.
- “SinS”—please note that we have not just been forgiven of “sin” but all of our “sins.” All our sins, past, present, and future have been forgiven under the blood of Jesus Christ. Believers enjoy a state of total and complete forgiveness in Jesus Christ. All our sins have been paid for.
 - Colossians 1:14
 - Colossians 2:13—“having forgiven you all trespasses.” How many is all? Every single last one.
- When Jesus died on the cross some 2,000 years ago in our stead all our sins were future. We need to pray the reality of this truth into our lives we are 100% totally forgiven of all our sins past, present, and future. We are justified, redeemed, glorified, blameless, at peace with God, accepted, and forgiven in the beloved.
- When he had to quit last Sunday we had just begun discussing the practical application of these spiritual realities.

Why Do We Still Sin?

- Romans 5:20—does this mean that because we saved by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ we should willfully sin? Religious people are scared to teach people grace because they fear the grace is license to sin.
- Romans 6:1-2—for the believer grace is not designed to be a license to sin but the wellspring and motivating principles for living Godly in Christ Jesus.
 - Titus 2:11-12
- I Thessalonians 5:23—every human being possesses a body, a soul, and a spirit. Because of original sin, the spirit of the natural man is born dead to the life of God.
- Ephesians 2:1-3—the natural man, or man by nature seeks to fulfill the desires of his fleshly appetites and mind.

- Romans 7:18—our sin nature resides in our flesh. Our default setting when we were born was to sin. That is the only thing we knew how to do.
- Colossians 2:11—when you trusted the shed blood of Christ as the only payment for your sins God performed a spiritual operation on you whereby your soul and spirit were cut away from the “the body of the sins of flesh.”
- Before you were saved your core programming was hard wired to your flesh, old nature, or old man. Now that you are saved you have been rewired, reprogrammed, and given a new nature, i.e., the new man.
- Romans 6:11-15—before we trusted Christ we had no choice but to yield our members as instruments of unrighteousness. Now because of the circumcision made without hands and the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit we have the capacity to yield our members as instruments of righteousness unto God.
- Even though our soul and spirit have been redeemed and cut away from the flesh as long as we are on earth we still reside in a sinful flesh that only know how to do one thing sin. The reason we still sin even though we have been totally forgiven is because it is so easy to fall back into our default setting and programming and walk after the flesh and not after the Spirit.

What Should We Do When We Sin?

- Roman Catholics teach that one needs to confess their sins to a priest. This view is rejected by most evangelical Christians; however, many people think we need to confess our sins directly to God in order to get forgiveness. Should we confess our sins today in the Dispensation of Grace?
- Many believers maintain that their relationship with God is eternal based upon the cross. However, sin in the life of a believer can cause a loss of fellowship with God. Therefore, we need to be careful that we are not out of fellowship with God by keeping track of our sins and confessing them directly to God.
- Parental Forgiveness—placed into the family of God which you can never be taken out of; however, sin causes a break in your fellowship with God. Therefore, we need to confess our sins so that forgiveness can be granted and fellowship restored.
- I John 1:9—we should confess our sins because the Bible tells us to right? This is the main verse, along with verses from the Old Testament that are used to support the notion of keeping short accounts with God.

Who Wrote I John?

- The book was written by John the Apostle
- Matthew 10:2—John was one of the 12 Apostles that Christ chose to minister to the nation of Israel during his earthly ministry.

- Matthew 10:5-7—For the beginning John has a limited ministry and commission to Israel only and then to Israel first.
- Acts 3:1—John is following the Jewish faith by going daily to the temple
- Acts 8:1—John stayed in Jerusalem because he was not sent to the gentiles.
- Galatians 2:9—John agrees that he would not go to the gentiles but would limit his ministry to the nation of Israel.
- From beginning to end, John’s entire ministry was focused on Israel first.

Where Does I John Fit Dispensationally?

- The subject matter of the book pertains to the time when the Anti-Christ is on the earth.
- I John 2:13—the term wicked one is used to refer to the Anti-Christ during the time of the tribulation. The verse talks about those who overcome the wicked one.
- Revelation 12:10-12—these people overcome the beast when he is cast out of heaven.
- When you are reading I John you are not reading a book that is addressed to the Body of Christ rather it deals with Israel during the tribulation period.
- Revelation 2:9—there are some people who say they are Jews but are not. They are lying. I John is going to be important in helping believing remnant in Israel identify believing Israel.

What Is I John 1:9 Really About?

- I John 2:11—notice there are two things that are true of this person:
 - They hate their brother
 - Because they hate their brother they are in darkness
- I John 3:15—notice what is true of this person:
 - He also hates his brother
 - Because he hates his brother he is walking in darkness based upon I John 2:11
 - Because he hates his brother he is a murder.
 - He does not have eternal life abiding in him because he hates his brother, walks in darkness, and is a murder. He is an unsaved person.
- I John 1:6—once again this person is walking in darkness.
 - What do we know about those who walk in darkness?
 - They are unsaved in the book of I John

- I John 1:5—there is no darkness in God at all He is the light.
 - Notice in verses 6, 8, 10 these people are making a claim only it is a false claim.
 - These people are saying that they have fellowship but they are liars. They are saying they are Jews when they are not.
 - I John 2:21-22—the lie here is a specific lie. It deals with how Jesus is.
 - I John 4:20—what do we know about the person who lies and hates his brother? He is not a saved guy.
 - Revelation 2:2—once again there are some people who are claiming they are Jews but they are liars.
- I John 1:7—the one who walks in the light is a saved person.
 - The blood of Christ has cleansed them from all iniquity.
- I John 1:8—once again someone is making the claim that they don't have sin.
 - Again this person is a liar, unsaved, and not a possessor of eternal life.
 - I John 2:4—he is a liar and therefore unsaved.
 - In Israel there were always believing and unbelieving people living side by side.
 - I John 3:18-19—these people are in the truth. My little children are those who are saved.
- John 8:44—notice that the same things are true of the people in I John. That is because the people we are looking at in I John are unsaved people.
- I John 1:10—making a claim that they have not sinned. They are unsaved liars and deceivers.
- So the context of I John 1:9 is dealing with unsaved Jews during the tribulation period who are falsely claiming to members of the believing remnant.
- I John 1:9—is a salvation verse for those living during the tribulation.
- If you are saved today you have already been cleansed from all unrighteousness. How many times can this happen to you?
- This verse has absolutely nothing to do with the fabricated doctrine of Parental Forgiveness.

Does Daily Confession Bring Victory Over Sin?

- Will continual daily confession of your sins lead to victory over sin in your life? No, all you are doing is fixating on the problem.
- Hebrews 10:1-4—this passage is talking about the sacrificial system under Israel's law.
- Hebrews 10:3—they had to bring the sacrifice every year as a reminder of the fact that they were sinners.

- The confession of sins and keeping of short accounts works the same way; it serves as a daily reminder of the fact that I'm a sinner. Under the common teaching on the confession of sins you are always looking at yourself to gage how you are doing with God. If your focus is on you and your sin and making sure all of your sins are confessed, which is impossible anyway, you will never have victory in the Christian life.
- I Corinthians 1:9—our fellowship is not based upon anything we do. Rather it is based upon the faithfulness of God.
- I Corinthians 1:30—we are all of these things because we are in Christ.
- I Corinthians 6:11—Paul never talks about believers being sinners but saints. We are saints because they are in Christ.
- We need to view ourselves that same way God does.
 - Saved—from eternal punishment
 - Forgiven—forgiven of all our sin
 - Justified—possessor of God's very righteousness
 - Indwelt and Sealed—by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption
 - Complete—perfect and complete lacking nothing
 - Seated—with Christ in the heavenly places
 - Joint Heir—all that is Christ's is ours
- You can confess your sins until the cows come home and never experience victory over sin. Why because the keeping of legalistic short accounts with God is not God's solution.
- As believers we need to stop focusing on the problem and start applying the solution. What should you do when you sin? Just Grace It! Apply the cross and move on.
- God is satisfied with the death of his son why can't the church be? Why do we continue to feel like we need to help God out? It is nothing more than our religious flesh programming that thinks grace is too easy and that God needs our help. We need to relax; Christ knew all about us and died for us anyway.