

Sunday, February 17, 2013—The Things Freely Given Us of God—Total Forgiveness, Part 5

Introduction/Review

- Over the past four weeks we have discussed many things related to being totally forgiven in Jesus Christ. First we discussed the reality of our total forgiveness. Second we have looking at the practical implications of that reality.
 - If we are totally forgiven why do we still sin?
 - Do we need to confess our sins according to I John 1:9?
 - Does daily confession of sin bring victory over sin?
 - Does God punish us physically for our sin?
 - What about suffering?
- God is not chastening members of the Body of Christ in the outward physical way like he chastened Israel in Time Past. Why? God is at work in the believer to change the believer from the inside out. Physical chastisement was part of Israel’s program designed by God to destroy them for their disobedience.
- Today suffering and trouble is not a sign of God’s favor or disfavor. Rather suffering provides a chance to let the life of Christ be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

Chastening Today in the Dispensation of Grace

- Psalm 94:10-12—the first definition is that of correction. This type of correction takes the form of instruction, the law provided correction which is a form of chastisement. Therefore, the first definition simply means to educate or inform with the goal of correcting.
- Proverbs 3:11-12—Once again we see chastisement associated with correction.
- I Corinthians 11:31-32—we need to judge ourselves through the Word of God. There are two different Greek words translated judge and judged in these verses.
 - Judge (*diakrinō*)—means 1) to separate, make a distinction, discriminate, to prefer, 2) to learn by discrimination, to try, decide a) to determine, give judgment, decide a dispute. (*Strong’s Concordance*)
 - I Corinthians. 6:5, 14:29—“judge”
 - Matthew 16:3, I Corinthians 11:29—“discern”
 - According to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* the English word judge carries the following relevant meanings: 1) To compare facts or ideas, and perceive their agreement or disagreement, and thus to distinguish truth from falsehood. 2) To form an opinion; to bring to issue the reasoning or deliberations of the mind.
 - Judged (*krinō*)—means 1) to separate, put asunder, to pick out, select, choose, 2) to approve, esteem, to prefer, 3) to be of opinion, deem, think, to be of opinion, 4) to

determine, resolve, decree, 5) to judge, a) to pronounce an opinion concerning right and wrong. (*Strong's Concordance*)

- The idea here is simple if we as believers will judge, examine, and discern the things in our own lives there will be no need for us to be judged by another believer. When we are judged by another believer it is a form of chastening.
- I Corinthians 2:14-16—we are all in possession of the mind of Christ. We need to use the mind we have been given and judge ourselves in light of the word of God.
- I Thessalonians 5:21—we are to prove all things. The Greek word translated “prove” means to: 1) to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals, 2) to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy. (*Strong's Concordance*)
 - Romans 12:2
- Philippians 1:9-10—our live needs to abound “in knowledge and in all judgment.” Why? So that we may “approve things that are excellent.”
- I Corinthians 11:31-32—if we don't judge ourselves other saints will. When believers are judged by other saints Paul says that it is the chastening of the Lord. God will use other believers to try to instruct and correct our poor behavior
- Galatians 6:1-4—it is my responsibility as a believer to judge my own life according to the standard of God's word. In this manner we allow the word of God to instruct our attitude, actions, and behavior. If we will not judge and discern our own life according to God's word it becomes the responsibility of other believers to do it for us.

How It Works?

- I Timothy 1:20—“that they may learn”
- II Timothy 2:25-26—“instructing”
- Titus 2:12—“teaching”
- II Timothy 3:15-16—“correction and instruction in righteousness”
- God is chastening believers today through the Word of God as well as through other believers. Our chastening is according to the first type, correction by instruction.

Forgiving One Another

- Ephesians 1:7—we are totally forgiven of all our sins. How should we practically forgive one another?

- Colossians 3:13—“Forgiving one another,” is the seventh trait of the new man (Col. 3:10) that Paul says believers to put on. Please note that we are instructed to forgive each other because we have been forgiven by Christ.
- Forgiveness is a hard one for all of us because our flesh naturally seeks revenge. Someone’s done something to me and I am going to get my pound of flesh.
 - Galatians 5:20
- What is forgiveness? The word translated “forgiving” here in Colossians 3:13 is related to the word “grace” with a verb ending added to the end, i.e., graceing. It basically means to show grace, to bestow grace upon, or to extend unmerited favor upon sinners. The idea of extending grace naturally flows into the idea of forgiving. To be gracious to one who has a complaint or grievance.
 - Grace + Sin = Forgiveness
- Many people say that to forgive is to forget. This is not correct. Forgiveness is a conscious decision and act of the will to not bring up the offense or hold it against a person. Did God forget that it took the death of his Son to forgive us from our sins? NO!! God simply chooses based upon our acceptance and belief in the cross work of Christ not to bring them up or hold them against us.
- Notice in the verse that forgiveness is something that we need to be practicing with one another. As believers we are to be “showing grace ones” and “forgiving ones.” In essence we are to be gracious and forgiving people. We are to forgive one another because we have already been forgiven.
- Matthew 6:14-15—is a passage that most of Christendom wants to operate under but look at what these verses teach about forgiveness. These verses teach conditional forgiveness.
- Ephesians 4:32—we have already been forgiven by God because of what Christ did for us how dare we refuse to forgive another human being for their offences against us. Far too often we legalistic with people when it comes to this issue of forgiveness.
- We also need to learn to forgive ourselves. We need to not wallow in the misery of our past mistakes. We need to understand that God has already forgiven us in Jesus Christ. Sometimes it’s easier to forgive someone else than it is to forgive yourself. The Godhead knew all about us, and the Son of God came and died for your sins anyway. Sometimes we need to apply the truth of total forgiveness to ourselves more than to others.
- Philippians 3:13-14—dwelling on past failings, short comings, hurts, and failures will rob you or your future and prevent you for fully apprehending who you are in Jesus Christ into the details of your life. Don’t allow your past to dictate your future. Apply the forgiveness that you have already been granted and move on.
- Ephesians 1:7—we are redeemed by the blood of Christ and forgiven of all our sins.