

You ARE Forgiven

A. Salvation for the Sinner vs. Forgiveness for the Christian.

1. The Passover Lamb: The shed blood and sprinkled blood.
2. The Red Sea compared to the Jordan River.
3. Bathing compared to foot washing (John 13:4-11).
4. Christian forgiveness does not mean a person is not saved.
5. Sin in a Christian's life will hinder progress and blessings.
 - a. Sin will hinder our fellowship with God and stop our prayers.
 - b. Sin toward God and other believers will open the door for Satan to afflict our lives, hinder our growth, and our healing.

B. Matthew 9:1-8

“So, He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. 2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”

3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!”

4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” 7 And he arose and departed to his house.

8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.”

1. This story is also told in Mark 2:1-12 and Luke 5:17-26
 - a. Mark 2:2 – The crowd was so large people were standing on the porch outside the synagogue door.
 - b. Mark 2:2 – Jesus preached the word to heal.
 - c. Luke 5:17 - The Holy Spirit's power was present to heal.
 - d. All Jesus was looking for was a portion of faith.
2. Matthew 9:6, Luke 5:24 – Jesus showed healing of sickness is the outward sign of His ability to forgive sins.
 - a. Signs and wonders are to point people to salvation, not just end our suffering.
 - b. This is why the Great Commission includes healing the sick.
 - c. Healing leads people to salvation.

C. Matthew 9:2 – “Be of Good Cheer”

- a. “Be encouraged.”
- b. This man was discouraged over past sins.
1. “...*your sins are forgiven you.*” (Mark 2:5, Luke 5:20).
 - a. “...*have been forgiven.*” – Perfect Passive of “aphieme.”
 - b. “...*you have been saved.*” – Perfect Passive of “sozo.” (Ephesians 2:8)
 - c. “You have been forgiven since the time you asked.”
2. It is never God’s fault we are not healed.
 - a. Pharisees were filled with unbelief and could not be healed.
 - b. This paralyzed man could not forgive himself.
3. Your sins are:
 - a. Removed when you ask for forgiveness (1 John 1:9).
 - b. Separated as far as the east from the west (Psalms 103:12).
 - c. Forgotten, never to be remembered again (Jeremiah 31:34).

D. Lift Up Your Hands – Straighten Up

“1. Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Therefore, strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”

Hebrews 12:1, 12-14

1. Lay aside the sins and weights.
2. Forgive yourself and get back in the race.

E. What Is In Your Past?

1. Have you forgiven your spouse?
2. Have you forgiven yourself?
3. Have you forgiven those who offended and misused you?
4. Now leave them in the past.

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” James 5:16