

We cry for deliverance and God creates a new condition. If God desires to welcome a lost child and restore his relationship who would say that it is not possible. It was the father who received the prodigal but the older brother did not think that it was possible. He did not believe in forgiveness.

Faust in the story "Gambling With His Soul", describes an artist painting a picture, a game of chess. He is on one side, Satan on the other. The game is almost over he has only a few pieces left, and on his face is a look of despair but the devil on the other side is anticipating triumph. But one day in the picture gallery, a great master of the game stood, he noticed the look of despair on the face of Faust, he studied the pieces on the board and at last he said, "It is a lie, The King and the Knight have another move". We know this to be true in human struggle. No matter how hopeless our position, the King has another move.

If Judas had waited until the resurrection, if he had encountered the risen Christ, he might have heard the words "Lovest Thou Me"

### III Is Forgiveness right.

1. Does it mean that God encourages sin. For God to freely pardon, is there not a danger, instead of saving the sinner to lower his standards. Will not the preaching of free forgiveness, letting Jesus take the burden fair.

In the book of Romans Paul talks about these dangers, if the grace of God is wonderful will a man abound in sin, what is the answer?

First, if God was making light of sin, then perhaps we might go along with the thinking of the world. But it does not mean that. It means that God hates sin, by the very act of cleansing, for He would have offered an easier way than the cross.

Was it making light of sin when Jesus told the woman, "I forgive thee, go and sin no more".

Is it making light of sin if a father's hair has turned grey by a son's sin before the boy comes back. Is it making light of sin if a mother has a sword to pierce her heart before the wonderer comes home. Is it making light, Christ opposed it with His life. It is the cost of forgiveness; unthinkable

### WHO CAN FORGIVE SIN?

Mark 2:7

This question appears because Jesus claimed to have the power to forgive sin.

Jesus had healed Peters wife's mother & immediately they brought unto him all that were sick.

Four friends brought a sick friend & Jesus said "thy sin be forgiven thee...."

You can imagine the disturbance as the priest felt they had some power, others felt God had the power-- etc.

Forgiveness of sins is one of the fundamental blessings of Salvation.....

Forgiveness of sin is a blessing that the messiah was to bring.  
Joh the Baptist -- Luke 1:76,77

In preaching one of the difficulties is to make sure that you are speaking to everyone. Some texts, subjects fail to appeal to all-----

You have heard people go away from a service saying at any rate he did not get me today, or that was good for old sister so and so....

But there is one theme which concerns us all-- the forgiveness of sin.... "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way."

This means me. It speaks to every one of us.

One of the wonders of the preaching by the early disciples was the experience of being forgiven. In the O. T. they had declared: who is like unto our God. Micah 7:18 They talked about God granting pardon. This is an experience that we need to have preached in our church.

Whenever the church proclaims forgiveness of sin this work is done. Who can say how many demons are rooted out by forgiveness? As one Dr. said, "I always send my patients to stand hear a certain preacher. He preaches forgiveness of sin."  
1 John 1:7 "The blood of Christ goes on cleansing us from all sin."

There are several questions which come up during every generation.

### I - Is forgiveness necessary?

When people are told that God offers forgiveness some of them say "What do I need it for". There are others who

have made blunders, but (I have done nothing wrong) that I should be forgiven. Someone else may not believe in forgiveness because he does not believe in the reality of sin. But if you question him about his past life, sin will soon be exposed.

Are not the rivers in my country better than the rivers in Israel?" (Naman) stated. Do we think that God will allow us to run life as we would like? God will not say to the sinner, "You did not mean it, Forgiveness is not necessary and merely keeps forgiveness for those who want it.

Fredrick the Great once listened to a sermon on the progress of man. Finally he stated this preacher has forgotten the shear devil in the human heart.

We may make light of sin, but it is like a dog shut up in a cellar because of his bad habits. He will break out and bite somebody else upon the first chance. Yet some people and some churches would make light of sin. There are some facts that would lead us to believe and to drive home the judgment and the mercy of the Lord.

— First, this sinful world, We have seen the darkest of nights Unrest all around the world. The refugee problem. Are we not to blame for these thousands? Are we not burdened with the fact? The whole reason is sin. 1 John 5:19 We cannot detach ourselves from the whole situation.

— Second, the example of Jesus. There are people today who are against the person of Christ. It is all right for him to be the hope of salvation but when it comes to a matter of character, then His example does not apply.

— Is forgiveness necessary? Some may say, "I may not be a saint, but at least I'm as good as so and so." But this argument grows small when Jesus is compared with it. When we stand our character beside the character of Jesus. Like (Augustine) who was studying in the University of Carthage. He said "All around me was boiling a pot of unholy things. One day Jesus crossed my path and took me and set me before Him that I might see how vile I was. I saw myself and was horrified."

(Peter) you remember, a strong man, but when the Lord turned and looked - "Where is a man who can bring his character in the presence of Jesus and still thinks he has nothing to be forgiven of?"

— Third, We have no further doubt when we come into the presence of the cross. We see our part, our share in the cross and we must see that this cross will take the wrecks of today and all of the sins common to man and forgive them. It is one needful thing.

## II Is forgiveness possible.

1. What does the ~~1st~~ say? It says, "What a man sows, that he shall reap." The past is out of control. He must bear the consequences. There is no hope, the thing is impossible

Every evil deed (cast into the stream) of life is like a stone falling into the water. The ripples spread out into the water unchecked and before the sinner knows what has happened he is way out of sight.

There is no road back to where you started from. That road years ago was your choice and today with burning hands you would like to throw it away. And the tragic thing about sin is that it always succeeds in reaching its goal. It chains a man, you take it and you pay for it.

2. A good definition of forgiveness means letting off, putting away the thought. This is why the gospel at first was not understood. Of course it does not mean that all the penalty of sin will vanish.

— The prodigal son was forgiven but that does not mean that there were not months of readjustment. It will be seen as mercy. His broken relationship had been restored. Not this was forgiveness. It was not the remission of a penalty, it was the restoration of a relationship. Can it be possible? Can he get back to the place where he can say, there is nothing between us?

|| A. We have only the testimony. The disciples said "We know this thing is true, God has broken our sins from us". "He has forgiven us". Paul said "I believe and therefore I have spoken".

Richard Baxter saw a murderer going to execution. "There goes Richard Baxter, but for the grace of God."

Dr. Chaldmens said "What can I do if God cannot justify the ungodly. It is God who forgives."

Second, it is the greatest force for righteousness in the world. No one know better than the disciples themselves. Peter says "I have wrecked my life, I don't know how it happened but I feel miserable." And Jesus said unto him "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep". Jesus put him back in perfect trust.

This will not only win his heart but will make his will. It turns evil to good.

#### Iv Have you been forgiven?

Forgiveness is plain and clear. Ofcourse no one can understand all of its implications. It does not depend upon being understood, it depends on being received This is one of the blessing that the Messiah was to bring through salvation. John the Baptist was to proclaim forgiveness Luke 1:76-77. The term in the new Testament for the word to forgive means to send away, to remit, to send back to put them away.

Sometimes a comparison was made between the releasing of a debtor. Jesus said, "Forgive us of our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors." It is not exactly true to say that to forgive sin is to make us as if we had not sinned.

↳ Forgiveness does mean that (sin is removed as a barrier) to our fellowship with God. Sin breaks man's fellowship with God but when sin is forgiven the block to fellowship is removed. The cloud that shuts out the face of God is blotted out. It is like the revival of human fellowship after friends or loved ones have been seperated by a wrong done by one to the other. A great burden is gone from the soul.

↳ Forgiveness is a personal act that law, social, physical cannot explain. The law knows nothing of forgiveness, but God can forgive. God rises beyond the law, not to violate or do away with the law. If the body is diseased by sin, forgiveness will not restore it to perfect soundness. If one waste his youth in sin, God does not give him back those years but He may shed many bitter tears over the consequences of his sin.

↳ A sinless being can never know a God of grace The story

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told by Dr. Warr in Echoes of Flanders, about a soldier who as a boy had run away from home and had gone to the depths of sin. An officer thought that he would try to help him by making him servant. It was almost like magic, the transformation again and later on he gave his life for this officer. As the darkness came on and the enemy attacked, he had given his life. The words of a prayer he learned years before at his mother's knee were coming back to him. And he repeated them, "The day is done, O God the Son, Look down upon thy little one. O Light of light, keep me this night, and shed around thy presence bright." And on he repeated, "I need not fear, if Thou art near, Thou art my Savior, kind and dear. So happily and peacefully, I lay me down to rest in Thee". So he crossed the river.

It depends on the faith that takes it like a child, for of such is the Kingdom.

#### WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE U. S. A.

J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, emphasizes some of the things about which Americans should be concerned and ashamed:

1. People spent eight times more hours at movies than at Sunday School.
2. Only one out of twelve persons attends Church regularly.
3. Seven out of eight children quit Church and Sunday School attendance before they reach fifteen years of age.
4. Fifteen million sex magazines are printed monthly and read by teenagers.
5. There are more girls serving beer and liquor in bars and restaurants than there are in our colleges.
6. One million babies were born illegitimately last year.
7. One million girls have venereal diseases.
8. There are three times as many criminals as there are college students.
9. A major crime is committed in America every twenty-two seconds.