

THE BLESSING OF FORGIVENESS FROM GOD (Ephesians 1:7)

I. The reason forgiveness is needed.

- A. We mentioned that the word translated forgiveness means to cause to stand away, to release sins from the sinner.
- B. The reason such is needed is that sins separate us from God and make us unfit to be in His presence (Isaiah 59:1-2).
 - 1. When a sin, a transgression of God's law, is committed, one can not be in the presence of God (Habakkuk 1:13).
 - 2. God cannot be in the presence of sin because of His holiness.
- C. David understood the dire effects of sin (Psalm 32:3-4).
- D. Daniel defined sin for us in a prayer recorded by him (Daniel 9:5-7).
 - 1. When we depart from God's laws, we are sinning.
 - 2. When we fail to heed the preaching of the gospel, we are sinning.
 - 3. When we are unfaithful to God, we are sinning.
- E. When sin is present, there is no fellowship with God.
 - 1. Sin separated man from God in the Garden (Genesis 3:24).
 - 2. Sin separated the Israelites from victory at Ai (Joshua 7:11-12).
 - 3. Sin separated Israel from God in captivity (Ezekiel 39:24).
 - 4. Sin will keep us from God (Hebrews 12:14).
- F. If we are not released from our sins, the only result will be spiritual death.
 - 1. Proverbs 11:19.
 - 2. Ezekiel 18:20.
 - 3. Romans 6:23.
- G. When we refuse to seek forgiveness of our sins, we are, in essence, saying we want to be separated from God in this life and in the life to come.

II. The receiving of forgiveness.

- A. No one in his or her right mind wants to be separated from God.
 - 1. We miss out on too much in this life (all the blessings from God we receive in this life).
 - 2. We will definitely miss out on too much in the next life.
- B. How does one receive the forgiveness necessary to have God's presence known and felt in his life?
- C. The only way one can receive forgiveness is through the blood of Jesus (Colossians 1:14; Ephesians 1:7).
- D. I don't know of anyone who claims to be a Christian who has a problem with that; all agree with the words of Isaiah that by His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5).
- E. The problems arise when we discuss how to receive the forgiveness through the blood of Jesus.
 - 1. Some would have us say what is known as the sinner's prayer.
 - 2. Some would just have us accept Jesus into our hearts.
 - 3. Some would just have us believe in Jesus as God's Son.
- F. The problem with these and some other means by which people claim to receive forgiveness is that none of these allow us to come into contact with the blood of Jesus.
- G. There is only one means by which an alien sinner can receive the blood of

Christ and that is through baptism.

1.Revelation 1:5 + Acts 22:16.

2.One is washed in the blood of Jesus when one is baptized.

H.No other act is said to allow us contact with the blood of Jesus.

I.Paul referred to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus as the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

1.That gospel, he tells us, saves us.

2.How can we obey the gospel?

3.By being baptized (Romans 6:3-4).

4.In baptism, we obey a likeness of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

J.For one who has been baptized, it is still necessary to have access to the blood of Jesus.

1.You and I still sin after being baptized.

2.If we say we don't, John says we are liars and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8).

3.We must walk in the light, be guided by God's word, in order to have access to that blood (1 John 1:7).

4.Christians who sin, must confess that sin to God and repent of it (1 John 1:9).

K.Repentance brings about forgiveness for the child of God.

1.Acts 8:22.

2.Revelation 2:5.

L.The reception of forgiveness from God is based on our willingness to seek forgiveness of our sins through the blood of Christ.

III.The result of forgiveness.

A.Great things happen when men seek forgiveness for their sins to God.

B.The fact is God wants man to repent so that man is not lost for eternity (2 Peter 3:9).

C.He has commanded man to repent in order to be ready for the judgment day (Acts 17:30-31).

D.When forgiveness is sought it will be given (Matthew 7:7).

1.We have to seek it.

2.God will grant it when we do so.

E.The result is a right relationship with God.

1.Psalm 32:5-11.

2.Psalm 51:7-12.

F.Forgiveness allows us to have an inheritance (Acts 26:18).

1.This inheritance is heaven.

2.1 Peter 1:3-4.

G.Forgiveness allows us to spend eternity in heaven!