

“The Gospel: Forgiveness of Sins”
Class 12
Basic Christianity

Gospel Topics Review and Reminder:

We are in the process in this course on Basic Christianity reviewing gospel themes that the Christian faith teaches. These themes are basic to Christianity, without which Christianity is not what it claims to be.

Tonight’s Topic:

Tonight’s topic is the FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

Scripture on the Forgiveness of Sins

Forgiveness and the Nature of God: Exodus 34:6-7 “(Replacement of the Two Tablets) Then the Lord passed by in front of him (Moses) and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished...’”

Forgiveness and Justification: Psalm 32:1-2; Romans 4:7-8 “How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.” “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.”

Forgiveness and the Cry of the Sinner: Psalm 51:9 “Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.”

Forgiveness Includes Separation from Our Sin: Psalm 103:12 “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

Forgiveness Includes Casting Our Sins from Us: Micah 7:18-19 “Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”

Forgiveness and God’s Forgetfulness: Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am the One who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”

Forgiveness Includes Wiping Out Our Sin: Isaiah 44:22 “I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud and your sins like a heavy mist.”

Forgiveness Described as Abundant Pardon of Sin: Isaiah 55:7 “He will abundantly pardon”

Forgiveness and God's Invitation: Isaiah 1:18 "Come, let us reason together says the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Forgiveness and God's Redemptive Work in the Incarnation: Matthew 1:21 "He will save His people from their sins."

Forgiveness and Christ's Atonement: Matthew 26:28 "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."

Ephesians 1:7 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace"

Hebrews 9:22 "Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins."

Revelation 1:5 "To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood"

Forgiveness and the Gospel: Luke 24:47 "(That Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead) And that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

Acts 2:38 "Peter said to them, 'Repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for (because of) the forgiveness of sins'"

Acts 5:31 "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."

Acts 10:43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

Acts 13:38 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you."

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Forgiveness and Paul's Call: Acts 26:18 "To open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins..."

Forgiveness and the Deliverance of Salvation of Sinners: Colossians 1:13-14; 2:13 "He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Categories of Divine Forgiveness

1. The Promise of Divine Forgiveness of Sins
 - 1) Divine Forgiveness Promised in the Levitical Sacrificial System
 - 2) Promise of Forgiveness in the Moral Pronouncements of the OT Prophets
 - 3) Promise of Forgiveness in the Declaration of the Gospel

2. The Nature and Characteristic of Forgiveness of Sins
 - 1) Forgiveness of Sins by Divine Grace Unmerited
 - 2) Forgiveness of Sins by Christ's Atonement and Divine Adjudication of Sins
 - 3) Forgiveness and No Double Jeopardy
 - 4) Forgiveness and Divine Forgetfulness
 - 5) Forgiveness and Divine Relational Love
 - 6) Forgiveness and Human Gratitude to God

3. The Cross of Jesus Christ and the Forgiveness of Sins
 - 1) Imputational Sin
 - 2) Imputational Righteousness
 - 3) Full Atonement
 - 4) Justification by Grace Alone through Faith Alone
 - 5) Legal Merit of the Cross

4. The Grace of God and the Forgiveness of Sins
 - 1) God's Grace and the Cross
 - 2) God's Grace and the Gospel
 - 3) God's Grace and the Spirit's Work
 - 4) God's Grace in Sanctification and the Forgiveness of Sins

5. The Christian Life: Forgiveness and the Christian's View of Christ
 - 1) Forgiveness and the Christian's Amazement in the Cross
 - 2) Forgiveness and the Christian's Love for Christ
 - 3) Forgiveness and the Christian's Worship of Christ
 - 4) Forgiveness and the Christian's Discipleship in Following Christ
 - a. Following Christ and Mental Obedience
 - b. Following Christ and Affectional Love
 - c. Following Christ and the Bible
 - d. Following Christ and Moral Goodness

6. The Christian Life: Forgiveness and the Christian's View of Sin
 - 1) Forgiveness and the Christian's View of the Horribleness of Sin
 - 2) Forgiveness and the Christian's View of the Power of Sin
 - 3) Forgiveness and the Christian's View of Hope in the Gospel

7. The Christian Life: Forgiveness and the Christian's View of the Christian Life
 - 1) The Christian's View of being Forgiven
 - 2) The Christian's View of Forgiving Others
 - 3) The Christian's View of Forgiving Oneself
 - 4) The Christian's View of Forgiveness and Holy Humility
 - 5) The Christian's View of Forgiveness and Reconciliation with God in Christ
 - 6) The Christian's View of Forgiveness and Anticipation of Divine Judgment

8. Misunderstanding of the Forgiveness of Sins
 - 1) Forgiveness Not a License to Sin
 - 2) Forgiveness Not a Promise of Present Sinlessness
 - 3) Forgiveness Not a Substitution for Sanctification

9. Mistakes in Teaching the Forgiveness of Sins
 - 1) Forgiveness without Justification
 - 2) Forgiveness without Regeneration
 - 3) Forgiveness without Sanctification

Conclusion: I recommend a book that will help us think about biblical forgiveness of sins through the saving work of Christ: "Gospel Remission" by Jeremiah Burroughs (1599-1646)