



“He Forgave Us All Our Sins” (Colossians 2:9-15)(7.30.23)

Colossians 2:9-15 Amplified
Bible

⁹ For in Him all the fullness of Deity (the Godhead) dwells in bodily form [completely expressing the divine essence of God]. ¹⁰ And in Him you have been made complete [achieving spiritual stature through Christ], and He is the head over all rule and authority [of every angelic and earthly power]. ¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but by the [spiritual] circumcision of Christ in the stripping off of the body of the flesh [the sinful carnal nature], ¹² having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him [to a new life] through [your] faith in the working of God, [as displayed] when He raised Christ from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh (worldliness, manner of life), God made you alive together with Christ, having [freely] forgiven us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled out the [a]certificate of debt consisting of [b]legal demands [which were in force] against us and which were hostile to us. And this certificate He has set aside *and* completely removed by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities [those supernatural forces of evil operating against us], He made a public example of them [exhibiting them as captives in His triumphal procession], having triumphed over them through [c]the cross.

The word of God for the people of God.



LET US PRAY.

Title: **"He Forgave Us All Our Sins"**

INTRODUCTION:

It is interesting and unexpected that this text naturally flows out of our three week sermon series on Spiritual Warfare. Jesus IS the head over all, and that includes the spiritual realm. Those rulers and authorities are mentioned twice here. AND this text shows that the forgiveness of sin is a crucial element in the cosmic conflict.

I last preached about forgiveness in July of 2015, eight years ago. Have you had any opportunity to exercise forgiveness in the last eight years? Have you committed any sin, trespasses, or transgressions in that timeframe? I must answer yes to both and surely you do too.

Forgiveness is about relationships. It is about the relationship with our Creator, our Heavenly Father. And, it is about relationship with other people. Many times I have counselled on forgiveness and so do others involved in pastoral care and mental health.

To truly grasp what is at stake, we must understand our God. We must understand our need for forgiveness. We must gratefully acknowledge the grace of God and on what His forgiveness is based. For God so loved the world that He GAVE His only begotten Son.

BODY:



Verse 9: For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form. This proclamation contains two foundational elements of the Christian faith. 1) Jesus is divine; Jesus is God. In October & November of 2016, I preached for seven weeks, proving Jesus is God. What does our Nicene Creed say? "We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father;"

2) Jesus was a real live human being. Again, our creeds make this an essential element of faith: "conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead;" He had to be a real man to die and to be resurrected. Otherwise, there was no real sacrifice for sin, no atonement, and no hope for our resurrection either.

If anyone denies either one of these doctrines, they are of the Devil. Then they are demonstrating the spirit of the antichrist. Jesus is God. Jesus lived a perfectly holy life, though tempted by sin the same way we are tempted by sin. He is our perfect example.

God became man so that you and I could be partakers in the divine nature. The Apostle Peter addresses this in 2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV84)

³ His [Jesus our Lord's] divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.



Verse 10: Let us look at several translations to get a handle on this concept. In the Amplified, we read in Him you have been made complete; the NIV – you have been given fullness in Christ; the ESV – you have been filled in Him;

NASB95 – IN Him you have been made complete; NRSV – you have come to fullness in Him; and the KJV – And ye are complete in Him.

The differences are subtle, but help us to see that there has been a transformation in us of supernatural proportions. Why do I say it is supernatural? Because in each case that sentence ends by acknowledging Jesus as the head over every principality and power. AND it should be self-evident because we are filled and completed WITH JESUS!! WITH GOD!!

Now, consider the practical implications. People are constantly searching for something that is missing in their lives. They are searching for their purpose. They are searching for something that will complete them. If they

find that right job or career, they believe they will be fulfilled. If they find the right spouse, they will be complete. Some people hope that having children will complete them.

For Christians, we also speak about finding our purpose or our calling in relation to the kingdom of God. What is God’s will for us? Romans 12:2 (NIV84) Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. My friends, I tell you the answer is to allow the image of Christ to come to fruition within you, then you will be fulfilled and complete.

Warren Wiersbe puts it this way: “When a person is born again into the family of God, he is born complete in Christ. His spiritual growth is not by *addition*, but by *nutrition*. He grows from the inside out. Nothing needs to be added to Christ because He already is the very fullness of God. As the believer draws on Christ’s fullness, he is “filled unto all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3:19). What more does he need?”

Christian, you already have what is necessary to find fulfillment in this life.

CIRCUMCISION	
Jews	Believers
external surgery	internal—the heart
only part of the body	the whole “body of sins”
done by hands	done without hands
no spiritual help in conquering sin	enables them to overcome sin

Verses 11 & 12 talk about circumcision and baptism. They compare and contrast.

There is a physical circumcision practiced by the Jews. There is a

spiritual circumcision exercised by the Spirit of Christ. Eight days after birth, all Jewish boys are circumcised in a religious ceremony. It is part of their identity as the Chosen People of God and commanded by God.

A Christian has been born again, born of the Holy Spirit, born from above. They have become new creations and live a new life. Their old fleshly nature has been stripped away. This is symbolized in our baptism. Submersion below the water signifies the death of the old man. Rising up out of the water signifies our being raised with Christ as God raised Jesus from the dead. This is our identity as children of God, as Christians.

The Jews had a strong sense of Community. The early Christian Church had a strong sense of Community. My fear is that today, too many local churches have let that sense of community slip away. Have we?



Have you come to grips with what God has done for you? Christ died for us. Do we just take that fact for granted without recognizing our part in Jesus' suffering?

A few weeks ago, I showed you a movie clip from War Room. Miss Clara, the mature Christian, was mentoring Elizabeth, an immature Christian. To get Elizabeth to understand the actions she must undertake, Miss Clara made her realize her own need and experience of God's grace.

Listen to this from the Oswald Chamber's devotional, *My Utmost for His Highest*:

"Beware of the pleasant view of the Fatherhood of God—God is so kind and loving that of course He will forgive us. That sentiment has no place whatever in the New Testament. The only ground on which God can forgive us is the tremendous tragedy of the Cross of Christ; to put forgiveness on any other ground is unconscious blasphemy. The only ground on which God can forgive sin and reinstate us in His favour is through the Cross of Christ, and in no other way. Forgiveness, which is so easy for us to accept, cost the agony of Calvary. It is possible to take the forgiveness of sin, the gift of the Holy Ghost, and our sanctification with the simplicity of faith, and to forget at what enormous cost to God it was all made ours.

Forgiveness is the divine miracle of grace; it cost God the Cross of Jesus Christ before He could forgive sin and remain a holy God. Never accept a view of the Fatherhood of God if it blots out the Atonement. The revelation of God is that He cannot forgive; He would contradict His nature if He did. The only way we can be forgiven is by being brought back to God by the Atonement. God's forgiveness is only natural in the super-natural domain.

Compared with the miracle of the forgiveness of sin, the experience of sanctification is slight. Sanctification is simply the marvelous expression of the forgiveness of sins in a human life, but the thing that awakens the

deepest well of gratitude in a human being is that God has forgiven sin. Paul never got away from this. When once you realize all that it cost God to forgive you, you will be held as in a vice, constrained by the love of God.”

COLOSSIANS 2:13

When you were dead in your sins

and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature,

God made you alive with Christ.

He forgave us all our sins,

{Practice this several times – line by line.}

You were dead: This means spiritually dead, which means eternally spiritually dead. On your way to hell and everlasting punishment dead. Most people don't know this or don't believe this until God the Holy Spirit convicts them. But it is a fundamental truth taught by Jesus. He says it right after the famous John 3:16 verse that is so often quoted. The 18th verse is rarely quoted. John 3:18 (NIV84) **Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.**

God made you alive with Christ: The Apostle Paul also proclaims this truth in Romans 6:11–14 (NIV84)

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life;

and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.



He forgave us ALL our sins. What kind of God do we have? A forgiving God, that makes us alive with Christ. Some think that this is only the God of the New Testament. But God does not change. It is the desire of God's heart to forgive. It is His nature and always has been. Here is OT proof:

Micah 7:19 (NIV84)

¹⁹ You [God] will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Psalms 103:11-12 (NIV84)

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Isaiah 38:17 (NIV84)

¹⁷ Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish.

In your love you kept me

from the pit of destruction;
you have put all my sins
behind your back.

Jeremiah 31:34 (NIV84)

³⁴ No longer will a man teach his neighbor,
or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,"
declares the Lord.

"For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."

Now for our NT proof:

Acts 10:43 (NIV84) All the prophets testify about him
that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of
sins through his name."

Acts 13:38 "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know
that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed
to you.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his
blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the
riches of God's grace.

Colossians 1:14 in whom we have redemption, the
forgiveness of sins.

1 John 2:12 I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

All of our sins. All of our transgressions. All of trespasses, All of our debts – FORGIVEN. All of them are forgiven. That is truly a mouthful. All of my sins that I have ever committed and all of the sins I will commit. If we are growing into the likeness of Christ, that will be fewer and fewer all the time. Nevertheless, ALL of my sins are forgiven. If you are a Christian, the same truth holds for you.

All implies a quantity, a great quantity. It is not just my sin. It is not just your sin. It is not just the cumulative sin of the 8 billion people on the planet today. It is all the sin for all people, for all time past and time to come.

Try to imagine what the measure of God's wrath would be for ALL that sin...On that grueling night in Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, Luke 22:42 (NIV84)

42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

4 And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.



What is a certificate of debt? When someone owed what they could not pay, it was recorded on a certificate of debt. When the debt was paid, the certificate would be marked as such. The debtor would then post it in a public place so that all would know the debt was cleared.

Hear what Adrian Rogers preached about this: "it was a custom in Rome, when a man was adjudicated guilty, condemned for a crime, if he were put in prison, they would take something and nail it to the prison door. It was called a "certificate of debt." On that certificate of debt would be written the crime that this man was guilty of, the number of years that he would stay in prison—days, months, or whatever. And when he had fulfilled his duty to the law, his certificate of debt was marked "paid in full."

It was taken, given to the judge, who would have it notarized, and he would carry it with him. And if anybody were to accuse him of that crime again, he could pull out the certificate of debt and say, "Yes, I may have been guilty, but I have paid in full. You're not going to bring

me into double jeopardy; I've already paid for that crime.""

Paul tells us that Jesus did what no human judge could possibly do or even consider doing. Jesus Himself, nailed the Certificate of Debt for the whole human race to that Calvary cross. When Jesus Died to pay that debt, the record of the debt has been abolished.

It is critical to remember though, that this does not mean everyone gets to heaven. As we already read in John 3:18 - Each person must believe in Jesus to participate in this debt forgiveness program. Romans 8:1 (NIV84) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.



So, in the way of illustration, imagine Satan our Adversary showing up in court and you are standing before the judge. Satan is frazzled. He is frantically shuffling through his papers. He sends one of his demons out into the hallway to look. Satan cannot find the list of charges. All the evidence seems to be misplaced. He has nothing to hold up against you.

Everyone that has spent time studying the Bible knows that the wages of sin are death. Without God's forgiveness of our sins our sentence would be eternal death. The Devil often tries to use the threat of death in his dealing with the children of disobedience. But when

Christ was raised from the dead, death was defeated.
The Devil has been defeated.

Hebrews 2:14 (NIV84)

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he [Jesus] too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

CONCLUSION:

We pray for forgiveness in the Lord's Prayer every Sunday. There is a very strong case that we should pray it every day. After all, we request, "give us this day our daily bread." We need God's provision every day.

Over the years I have heard three different ways of requesting forgiveness: 1) Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against. 2) Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. 3) The way we pray here at Emmaus - Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

There was a four year old boy who was overheard praying the Lord's Prayer. He didn't understand one of the words, but he got the gist of it: Forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.

Next week:



Next week, we will address God's forgiveness as it relates to our application in human relationships.

Amen and amen. Let us pray.