

Lesson Four: How Are We Forgiven?

Justice Paid Mercy Reigns

How Are We Forgiven? (Continued)

2. Justice Paid; Mercy Reigns

a. God Demands Justice

- i. **Sin must be atoned for!:** **Leviticus 16:3, 11:** *Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering ... And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself ...*
- ii. **God's throne stands on justice:** **Psalms 89:14:** *Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.*
- iii. **God cannot tolerate evil:** **Habakkuk 1:13a:** *Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity*
- iv. **Forgiveness requires the shedding of blood:** **Hebrew 9:22:** *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

a. God Bestows Mercy

- i. **Even in the face of rebellion God bestows mercy!:** **Daniel 9:9:** *To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;* **Nehemiah 9:16-17:** *But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments, ¹⁷And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.*
- ii. **God is Love:** **1 John 4:16:** *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love;** and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*
- iii. **God's Love flows forth as mercy to the undeserving (grace):** **Ephesians 2:4-5:** *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*
- iv. **Christ's sacrifice was an act of Love:** **Romans 5:8:** *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **John 3:16:** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

b. Justice Paid in Full!

- i. **Christ was the substitute sacrifice for sin:** **Isaiah 53:10-11:** *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make **his soul an offering for sin,** he*

shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for **he shall bear their iniquities**.

- ii. **All sin was forgiven at the cross: Colossians 2:13-14:** *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; ¹⁴Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances {in the Greek literally statements of debt – I.O.U.s} that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*
- iii. **Christ was the propitiation (appeasement) for our sin: 1 John 2:2:** *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*
- iv. **Christ atoned for our sin reconciling us to God: Romans 5: 10-11:** *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. ¹¹And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*
- v. **Jesus declared he had paid the price in full!: John 19: 30:** *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished** {literally in the Greek: “Paid in Full”}: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

c. **Just and faithful to forgive (Put it all together!)**

- i. **Christ’s blood is the payment to Justice that allows God to freely forgive!:** **Romans 3: 24-26:** *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: ²⁵Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; ²⁶To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*
- ii. **With Justice paid in full with the blood of Jesus; mercy can reign. There is nothing we can (or are commanded to) add.:** **Hebrew 10:17-19:** *And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus*
- iii. **It is ‘just’ that God freely forgives!:** **1 John 1:9:** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*

d. **God has declared our forgiveness is an accomplished fact.**

- i. **Have. – Not might have or will have.:** **Ephesians 1:7:** *In whom we **have** redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; **Colossians 1:14:** In whom we **have** redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*
- ii. **It is a done deal!:** **1 Corinthians 6:9-11:** *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you: but **ye are washed**, but **ye are sanctified**, but **ye are justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*