

“Not Willing that Any Should Perish”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Psalm 103:1-18
- B. God is eager to forgive - Psalm 86:5, 130:7; Joel 2:13; 2Peter 3:9
- C. Why are we afraid of the Judgment?
 - 1. “I do not think I can be forgiven of my sins.”
 - 2. “How can I know I’ve been forgiven?”
 - 3. “I am afraid that I might have overlooked something or I might be condemned for doing something I didn’t know was wrong.”
- D. At the core of this fear is a misunderstanding of the nature of God.
 - 1. Most imagine God as harsh and unrelenting, waiting for people to make a mistake, so that He can punish them with glee.
 - 2. They do not remember or believe that God is love - 1John 4:7-8
 - 3. God wants us all saved - Heb. 6:9-18
 - 4. God’s goal is salvation for every person - Ez. 18:23

I. THE HISTORY OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

- A. David, because of his sin with Bathsheba, understood the forgiveness of God and sang in praise of it - Psalm 103:1-5
 - 1. How did we become children of God in the first place?
 - a. Was it not because God offered us salvation? - Rom. 5:8
 - b. Because He demonstrated His love toward us? - John 3:16
 - c. Because He initiated the relationship out of love? - 1John 4:9-10
 - 2. He pardons all our iniquities
 - a. God has the power to cleanse us from every sin. There is no sin God cannot forgive or is unwilling to forgive - 1John 1:9
 - b. If a sin is un-forgiven, it is because man will not let go of his sin and humble himself before God - Rom. 6:17; Heb. 5:8-9
 - c. The invitation to be forgiven is always offered - Rev. 22:17
 - 3. He heals all our diseases, healing us from the spiritual, emotional, mental, and sometimes physical consequences of sin
 - a. Sin damages us - Psalm 38:1-7
 - b. God supplies a cure - Psalm 107:17-20
 - c. He relieves us of anguish we inflict on ourselves - Psalm 147:3
 - 4. He redeems our lives
 - a. We sold ourselves into sin - Rom. 7:14, 24
 - b. We willingly sold ourselves for nothing - Isa. 52:3
 - c. God bought us, paying an unimaginable price - 1Peter 1:18-19
 - 5. He crowns us with glory - 1Peter 5:4; James 1:12; 2Tim. 4:8; Rev. 3:21
 - 6. He satisfies or fulfills us; even as we grow older on the outside, we become younger on the inside.
 - a. Psalm 92:13-15; Isa. 40:31; 2Cor. 4:16
 - b. He satisfies our need for goodness - Psalm 65:4, 104:28; 107:9
- B. God takes care of our every need - Psalm 103:6-13

1. He brings justice to the oppressed - Psalms 72:4, 146:7
 2. He teaches us His will and wisdom - Psalm 19:7-11; 2Peter 1:3
 - a. We aren't left to guess what God requires of us.
 3. His character is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and merciful
 - a. Ex. 34:6-7 - It is repeated often in the Old Testament
 - b. The children of Israel sinned by worshiping the golden calf while Moses was on Sinai getting God's law for the people. God was ready to destroy the people out and begin again with Moses (Ex. 32:9-10). Moses interceded and God relented (Ex. 32:14). When the broken tablets with the Ten Commandments were replaced, God revealed why He put up with the Israelites, but not to the point of thoughtlessly doting on them. It would be dangerous to misinterpret God's longsuffering and compassion for someone who overlooks all faults like an overly indulgent grandfather.
 - c. Balance between love and justice - Ex. 34:6-7
 - d. He will never abandon us until we utterly reject Him, or else we would not survive - Isa. 57:16
 - e. He punishes us less than we deserve - Psalm 130:3; Ezra 9:13
 - f. He is very merciful to those who fear Him - Eph. 2:4-7
 - g. He has removed our sins far from us; our sins are forever forgiven - Jer. 50:20; Isa. 43:25; 1John 1:7
- C. God's love lasts forever - Psalm 103:14-19
1. God knows our limits - Psalm 78:39; Isa. 40:6-8; James 4:14
 2. In contrast to our frail temporary existence in this world, God's compassion is permanent in His realm. Evidence that we will live forever; God will not love something forever that only lasts for a moment
 - a. Jer. 31:3; Psalm 100:5
- D. God's reign is permanent, and He is in control. It is impossible that He will not keep His promise to save us - Psalm 103:19-22

II. THE CONDITIONS OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

- A. Will God forgive me?
1. Yes. God can do no less for you and remain faithful to His character
- B. Is God going to condemn me if I missed something?
1. If you are living by His word, walking in the light, and learning day by day; when you stumble and learn of it and humbly repent and confess your sins, then God knows you, understands you, He knows your limits, and He is rich in compassion and mercy. You will be forgiven
 2. 1John 1:5 - 2:2
- C. How can I know I've been forgiven?
1. 1John 2:3-6, 5:13, 19-20
- D. God has promised you salvation if you give yourself to Him through the Gospel. Where is your faith in the God of all creation, if you doubt this?