THE BEAUTY OF THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS
Jeremiah 31:34; Acts 2:38
Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION
1. Paul said, "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin" -- Rom. 5:12
   (1) Every sin is against God -- I Cor. 8:12; Psa. 51:4; Gen. 39:9
   (2) Sin separates man from God -- Isa. 59:1 - 2; Rom. 6:23
2. He said, "So death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" -- Rom. 5:12
   (1) All men who have reached the age of accountability have sinned -- Rom. 3:23
3. God, by His grace, has given us the gospel that we might be forgiven of our sins -- Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16:15 - 16
4. The heart and core of the gospel is that by His grace upon the merits of Christ's blood will forgive man, when he meets the CONDITIONS OF THE GOSPEL -- Matt. 26:28; 20:28

I. OUR GOD IS A FORGIVING GOD -- Micah 7:18; Psa. 86:5
1. God is a God who PARDONS
   (1) Psa. 85:2; Psa. 32:1; James 5:20
   (2) Acts 5:31
2. God is a God READY TO PARDON
   (1) "But thou are a God ready to pardon" -- Neh. 9:17
3. God is a God who ABUNDANTLY PARDONS
   (1) Isa. 55:7 -- "For He will abundantly pardon"
4. Because God is so MERCIFUL, He is so FORGIVING
   (1) Psa. 103: 8 - 13
   (2) Psa. 106: 1
   (3) Eph. 2:4

II. GOD WILL FORGIVE THE LOWEST AND VILEST OF SINNERS
1. The Bible records the salvation of people in the depths of sin:
   (1) The people on Pentecost -- Acts 2:22 - 47
   (2) The Corinthians -- I Cor. 6: 9 - 11
   (3) Paul -- I Tim. 1: 13 - 15
2. God promises to forgive us of ALL our sins -- I John 1: 8 - 10
3. Though our sins be as SCARLET they can be WHITE AS SNOW -- Isa. 1: 18; Rev. 1:5

III. WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?
1. We can learn what FORGIVENESS is by observing what God does when He forgives:
   (1) He REMOVES the notion of the offense from His record -- Acts 3:19
   (2) He REMEMBERS IT NO MORE -- Heb. 8:12
   (3) He RESTORES the OFFENDER to his former position of love and grace.
2. We can learn what FORGIVENESS is by noting what God does with our sins when they are forgiven:
   (1) He COVERS them -- Psa. 32:1; 85:2; James 5: 19 - 20
   (2) He casts them BEHIND His back -- Isa. 38:17 -- "For thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back"
(3) He removes them from us AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST -- Psa. 103:12
(4) He DOES NOT IMPUTE them -- Psa. 32:2
(5) He BLOTS them FROM THE RECORDS -- Acts 3:19
(6) He will NEVER MENTION them AGAIN -- Ezek. 18:22; 33:16

3. We can learn what FORGIVENESS is by studying the Biblical synonyms for "forgiveness":
   (1) Remission -- Acts 2:38 -- Release; forgiveness of sins; send away
   (2) Cleansing -- Acts 22:16; John 15:3; Eph. 5:26
   (4) Pardon -- Psa. 25:11--forgive
   (5) Blotting -- Acts 3:19 -- To wipe away
   (6) Healing -- Matt. 13:15

4. The beauty of FORGIVENESS:
   (1) Every bad thought we ever thought is as if we had not thought it.
   (2) Every bad deed we ever did is as if we had not done it.
   (3) Every bad word we ever said is as if we had not said it.

IV. WHEN GOD FORGIVES US WE OUGHT TO FORGIVE OURSELVES

1. Do not try to pay a cancelled debt.
   (1) God's forgiveness of our sins is the cancelling of the debt against Him -- Matt. 6:12; 26:28
2. When God forgives He remembers our sins no more -- Heb. 10:17; I John 1:9
3. When God forgives us we must forgive ourselves.

V. THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS THE DIVINE REMEDY FOR SIN

1. There is a healing fountain opened for our sins -- Zech. 13:1
   (1) The blood of Christ -- I Pet. 1: 18 - 19
2. Christ is the “lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” -- John 1:29; Acts 13:38
3. Through Christ and His shed blood, we enjoy:
   (1) Remission of sins -- Matt. 26:28
   (2) Redemption -- Eph. 1:7; Col. 1: 13 - 14
   (3) Reconciliation -- Eph. 2: 13, 16
   (4) Washing -- Rev. 1:5
   (5) Cleansing -- I John 1: 7 -10
   (6) Justification -- Rom. 5:9
   (7) Sanctification -- Heb. 10:10; 10:29; 13:12
   (8) Purged -- Heb. 9:14

VI. FORGIVENESS IS CONDITIONAL

1. The ALIEN SINNER receives forgiveness conditionally:
   (1) Matt. 7;21
   (2) Luke 6:46
   (3) Heb. 5:8 - 9
   (4) Acts 10: 34 - 35
2. The alien sinner must realize:
   (1) He is LOST in sin.
(2) He must DO something to be saved -- Eph. 2:8
3. The people on Pentecost asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" -- Acts 2:37
   (1) Peter told them -- Acts 2:38
4. Paul asked, "What wilt thou have me to do?" -- Acts 9:6
   (1) Acts 22: 16
5. To the CHILD OF GOD, forgiveness is CONDITIONAL:
   (1) There must be genuine REPENTANCE -- Acts 8: 22 - 23; Psa. 57:17
   (2) There must be a CONFESSION OF SIN -- I John 1:9; James 5:16
   (3) There must be a SINCERE PRAYER -- Acts 8:22; James 5:16

CONCLUSION
1. Can you think of anything more beautiful than the forgiveness of sins?
2. Are you here and in your sins?
3. If you die in your sins you will be lost.
4. Don’t you want the remission of your sins?
5. Won’t you obey the gospel NOW? II Cor. 6:2

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