

## The Ancient Path of Forgiveness

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Ancient Paths – Pt. 5

March 25, 2018

**INTRO...** Blessed—with forgiveness!!

**Ephesians 1:3-10** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,<sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love<sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,<sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight<sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ<sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

- Paul's Description of a 'Blessed Life'
- Perhaps a candidate for 'most easily overlooked' is in v. 7—Forgiveness!

*"There is a clause near the end of the Apostle's Creed, which, I fear, is often repeated without thought or consideration. ... "I believe in the Forgiveness of sins." Thousands I'm afraid, never reflect what those words mean. ...Let us see to it that we know something by experience of the 'Forgiveness of our sins.'" J.C. Ryle, "Forgiveness"*

*This week (HOLY WEEK) gives us the opportunity to 'Get Off the Interstates of Life' and travel slowly down the Ancient Path of FORGIVENESS!! ...*

"It does us good to get back to these antiquities—to these eternal things. You shake off something of the dust of time, as you no longer walk down its restless ages; but traverse the glorious eternity, where centuries seem no more than fallen leaves by the way. Thousands of years are less than a drop of a bucket compared with the lifetime of the Almighty. How sublime a thing to climb, in contemplation, to the everlasting God and the eternal council-chamber," **Charles Spurgeon**

**Among all that you DON'T HAVE ... "you have redemption, the forgiveness of your sins!" (v.7)**

**'redemption' = a releasing effected by payment of ransom.**

*"...what a charming thing it is to deal with experimental divinity; not with theories, but with matters of fact, great facts which are dear to you, because they have been wrought in you, and you have not been merely a delighted spectator of them, but you have been the subject and object of them. "In whom we have redemption." Whether others have it or not, we have "redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins." We do not hope for it, but we have it. We do not merely think so, but we know that we have it. We are redeemed; we are free from bondage; we are forgiven, and are no longer under condemnation." **Charles Spurgeon***

**Col 1:13-14** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Outline:

- (1) What is Forgiveness
- (2) How does it get achieved?
- (3) How does it impact us once we've seen it? (Nearness to God ...Humble Awareness ...Hopeful Awareness ...Altered Relationships)

## **(1) What is Forgiveness**

*"See now what just cause I have to say that to know our need of forgiveness is the first thing in true religion. Sin is a burden, and must be taken off. Sin is a defilement, and must be cleansed away. Sin is a mighty debt, and must be paid. Sin is a mountain standing between us and heaven and must be removed. ...The*

*first step toward heaven is to see clearly that we deserve hell. There are just two alternatives before us,—we must either be forgiven, or be miserable forever. ...See too how little many persons know of the main design of Christianity, though they live in a Christian land. They fancy they are to go to church to learn their duty, and hear morality enforced... They have yet to learn that the leading mark of Christianity is the remedy it provides for sin.” J.C. Ryle, “Forgiveness”*

*What is this “forgiveness of sins”? ...I will begin with rescue from punishment; for if sin be pardoned, the penalty is extinguished. ...We are certain that the everlasting punishment of sin declared in Scripture, will never happen to the man who is forgiven. When transgression is removed the soul stands clear at the bar of God, and there can be no further penalty. “I absolve thee,” says the great Judge; and that carries with it weight, so that a man that is forgiven is cleared of the punishment which he must otherwise have borne. “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.” Charles Spurgeon*

*...Today’s Pop-Religion has maneuvered its way around the idea that there is Any Punishment with God!*

## **(2) How is Forgiveness Achieved?**

- **The 2 SIDES of FORGIVENESS** ...this need for Restoration from both the Divine Side of the Story and the Human Side of the Story
  - On the human side ...Man has become SEPARATED from God’s dwelling-life-presence! ...The struggles of life, dysfunction of life, the emptiness of life, the despair of life is revealed to be connected to THIS problem!
    - **Romans as the Ultimate Commentary on the Human Dilemma and Solution**
      - Rom 1 ...the source of all human dysfunction is sin and the resulting separation of man from God! [Rom 1:16-17, 21]
      - Rom 2-3 ...all have sinned [Rom 3:10-12]
      - Rom 3ff ...man’s hope is to own his condition and receive God’s remedy [Rom 3:23-25]

- On the Divine Side ...God's nature (Holy & Righteous) results in His Withdrawal from Man/Creation and a Barrier of Separation due to sin. ...How does THAT get fixed or remedied?

Rom 3:23-25 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness..."

- '**Redemption**' = a release effected by the paying of a ransom
- '**Propitiation**' = a satisfying of God
- '**This was to show God's righteousness**' [God's righteousness is a certain way—it is not subject to changes in culture or popular opinion]

***Forgiveness is only granted from God's side when His Nature & Character is SATISFIED! ...How Does That Happen?***

- 'A propitiation by his blood' (v. 25)
- God has accomplished THAT forgiveness by the Event we Celebrate as EASTER!—An Event Illustrated and Explained and Clarified Prophetically—so that we would Not Miss it When it Occurred.
- ***The Ancient Path of The Passover*** in Ex. 12 [Ex 12:3, 6-7, 13]
- ***The Ancient Path of The Scapegoat*** on the Day of Atonement (Lev 16)

### **(3) How Does it Impact Us?**

...When one travels the Ancient Path of Forgiveness, what is the impact of that scenery?

- ***Nearness to God! ...a Change in Our Relating to God***

Heb 4:16 "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

- ***Nearness to People! ...a Change in Our Relating to Others***

John 15:12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Col 3:12-13 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Luke 7:36-50 **...He who has been forgiven much, loves much**