

## Lesson No. 16

# What Does the Bible Say About the Forgiveness of Sins or Justification?

### 1. Do we need forgiveness of sins ?

THE BIBLE SAYS--

- (a) *Psalm 51:5*. Behold, I was **brought forth in iniquity**, and **in sin** my mother **conceived** me.
- \* (b) *Psalm 19:12*. Who can **understand his errors**? Cleanse me from **secret faults**.
- (c) *Isaiah 59:2*. But your iniquities have **separated you from your God**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

We need forgiveness of sins

- (A) Because we are conceived and born in sin;
- (B) Because we sin daily and more often than we know;
- (C) Because we cannot enter heaven without it.

### 2. Does God forgive sins?

THE BIBLE SAYS--

*Psalm 130:4*. But **there is forgiveness** with You.

*Psalm 103:2,3*. Bless the LORD, O my soul... Who **forgives all your iniquities**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

God forgives us all our sins.

### 3. How does God forgive sins?

THE BIBLE SAYS--

*Romans 8:33*. Who shall **bring a charge** against God's elect? It is **God who justifies**.

*Romans 4:5*. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who **justifies the ungodly**, his faith is accounted for righteousness.

FROM THIS WE LEARN--

God no longer charges our sins to us, but declares us righteous, or just. (Justification.)

### 4. How can God, who is holy and just, and therefore must punish sin, forgive sin?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

*2 Corinthians 5:19, 21*. God was in Christ **reconciling the world** to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them. For He (God) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin **to be sin for us**, that we might **become the righteousness** of God in Him.

*1 John 2:2*. And He Himself is the **propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for **the whole world**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) God charged the sins of the whole world to Christ, man's Substitute.
- (B) When Christ died He rendered full satisfaction to God for all sins, and God declared the whole world to be righteous. (General justification - this is also called Objective or Universal Justification.)

## 5. Where does God offer us the forgiveness of sins which was thus earned by Christ ?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

*Luke 24:47.* Remission of sins should be **preached** in His name to all nations.

*2 Corinthians 5:19.* (God) has committed to us the **Word of reconciliation**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

God offers us the forgiveness of sins in the Gospel.

## 6. How does the sinner accept the forgiveness of sins?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

*\*Romans 3:28.* Therefore we conclude that **a man is justified by faith** apart from the deeds of the law.

*Genesis 15:6.* And he **believed** in the LORD, and He **accounted it to him for righteousness**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The sinner receives the forgiveness of sins and is justified when he believes the Gospel. (Individual justification - this is also called Subjective Justification.)

## 7. How did Jesus teach us to pray for forgiveness of sins?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

*Luke 11:2,4.* So He said to them, "When you pray, say: our Father in heaven... **forgive us our sins.**"

FROM THIS WE LEARN--

We are daily to repent of, and pray for forgiveness of, our sins.

## 8. What, then, in brief, do the Scriptures teach of the forgiveness of sins, or justification ?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

*Romans 3:22-24.* For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being **justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**.

*\*Romans 5:1.* Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

We receive forgiveness of sins and are justified before God

- (A) Not by our works, but by grace,
- (B) For Christ's sake,
- (C) Through faith.

## 9. Why can and should every believer be certain of the forgiveness of his sins and of his salvation?

THE BIBLE SAYS--

*Titus 1:2.* God, who **cannot lie, promised** (eternal life).

**\*2 Timothy 1:12.** I know whom I have believed and **am persuaded** that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

**Romans 8:38,39.** For **I am persuaded** that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

Every believer can and should be sure of the forgiveness of his sins and of his salvation because God's promise is sure.

## **10. Why must we ever firmly maintain the doctrine of justification by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith?**

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **Acts 10:43.** To Him **all the prophets witness** that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.
- (a) **John 20:31.** **These are written** that,...believing you may have life in His (Christ's) name.
- (b) **Galatians 5:4,5.** **You** have become estranged from Christ, you who **attempt to be justified by law**; you have fallen from grace. For **we** through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of **righteousness by faith**.
- (c) **Matthew 9:2.** Son, be of **good cheer**; your sins are forgiven you.
- (d) **Revelation 1:5,6.** To Him who loved us and **washed us from our sins in His own blood**, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, **to Him be glory** and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

FROM THIS WE LEARN--

We must ever firmly maintain this doctrine

- (A) Because it is the chief doctrine of the Christian religion;
- (B) Because it distinguishes the Christian religion from all false religions, which all teach justification by works;
- (C) Because it gives enduring comfort to poor sinners;
- (D) Because it gives all glory to God.

*Before the Next Lesson*

**FILL OUT Work Sheet No. 16.**

**MEMORIZE the Bible passages marked with an asterisk (\*).**



**READ Acts, chapters 12-18.**

**Work Sheet No. 16**

**1.**

*(Complete these sentences.)*

- (A) The worst thing in the world is .....
- (B) The greatest blessing is .....

**2.**

*(Check whether true or false.)*

- (A) Only God can forgive sins. True.  False.
- (B) God forgives us our sins because His kindness moves Him to overlook them. True.   
False.
- (C) God forgives the sins of those who by their conduct show themselves worthy of forgiveness. True.  False.
- (D) We receive forgiveness and get to heaven by believing in Christ and doing good works. True.  False.

**3.**

The world is full of religions. Yet, upon close investigation, we find that in reality there are only two religions. Which are these two religions?

- (A) .....
- (B) .....

**4.**

*(Check the correct statement)*

- (A) Faith saves because it is a God-pleasing thing.
- (B) Faith saves because it lays hold of the merits of Christ.

**5.**

- (A) What is *general* justification?.....  
.....
- (B) When did it take place?.....  
.....
- (C) What is *individual* justification?.....  
.....
- (D) When does it take place?.....  
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