

FORGIVENESS MECHANICS

HOW FORGIVENESS WORKS TOWARD SALVATION

*"Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered."*

~ Romans 4:7 (Psa 32:1)

1. Salvation vs. Forgiveness

- a. Salvation is simple to receive (faith), but its depth teaches the wisdom & grace of God
- b. 'Salvation' is the whole package, 'forgiveness' is one part. (*Car vs. wheels*)
- c. What is forgiveness? How does it work? (*Hub, bearings, lugs, tire, rim, rotors*)
- d. Forgiveness makes salvation possible (*who, how, when, what, application*) Ps 130:3-4

2. Function of Forgiveness

- a. Sin creates problems with punishment, relationship, purpose, mortality (lesson 1)
- b. An offense (sin) incurs debt, claim of injustice, call for payment, punishment, restitution
- c. Forgiveness removes the punishment problem → forgiveness = no punishment.
- d. Forgiveness ~def. To grant pardon; to remit sin, remove, release, free from a debt.
 - i. Forgiveness thinks and desires no evil, revenge, ill will in the face of an offense.
 - ii. It treats an offender as not guilty, sends sin away, rejects it, separates it.
 - iii. 2Sam 12:13,19:19, Ps 25:7,79:8,85:2-4,103:8-12, Isa 38:17,43:25; Mic 7:18-19
- e. Forgiveness not to be confused with forbearance (time past, but now...) Rom 2:4, 3:25
- f. Forbearance ~def. Restraint; patience, longsuffering, endurance; withholding; delay.

3. Forgiveness from God

- a. Atonement required of man: suffering and sacrifice to satisfy justice for his sin.
- b. Man can never claim forgiveness - it must be granted; he can only receive.
- c. Only God can ultimately forgive: 1) all sins are against him, 2) he knows 3) he is pure
- d. Jesus forgave sins, and the scribes were half right; man cannot forgive - Mark 2:5-7
- e. He teaches us to be merciful and forgiving, but we cannot remove sin - Luke 6:37

4. Forgiveness Mechanics

- a. Forgiveness must have God's authority- name of God. Lev 4:20, Luke 24:47, Acts 13:38
 - i. (if God does not press charges, then who remains to accuse, punish, wrath?)
- b. God is merciful, longsuffering, forgives, but does not clear the guilty. Num 14:18-21
- c. Pardons, debts, punishments, dismissed due to justice being served (not emotions)
- d. God can only grant forgiveness due to atonement -Rom 4:7,Ex 32:30,Heb 9:22,Co 1:14
- e. Forgiveness requires repentance/faith – without which the offense is not acknowledged. Josh 24:19-20, 2 Chron 30:18-19, Ps 86:5, Lk 3:3, 24:47, Acts 8:22, 10:23, 26:18
- f. Paul encourages forgiveness of the one who repents - 2 Cor 2:6-10
- g. Christ died to provide forgiveness. He stands in the way of punishment/wrath today.

5. Forgiven All Our Sins

- a. You can be forgiven some sins and still not be saved from all.
- b. How many times must we be forgiven? 1 John 1:9, Jam 5:15, Heb 10:26
- c. The problem with forgiveness is that we continue to sin ... Psa 103:2-3
- d. The new covenant would grant forgiveness forever – Heb 8:12, 10:17
- e. According to the mystery of you in Christ, there is forgiveness of all. Col 2:10,13