

PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS
1 JOHN 1:9 / 10-7-20 / WED

I. FIRST, THERE IS A CONDITION FOR OUR FORGIVENESS— “If We Confess Our Sins.”

- A. This is a reminder that forgiveness involves a choice.
1. The Greek word for “confess” is “**homologo**” and means “**to say the same thing.**”
 2. Literally it means to say the same thing that God says about sin.
 3. If we confess our daily sins, we can expect to be forgiven—**Prov. 28:13**.
 4. The word confess in this verse is a present tense verb meaning “**confess and keep on confessing**”.
- B. The reason for our need to confess is our sin— “**If we confess our sin**”.
1. The Greek word for sin is “**hamartia**” meaning “**to miss the mark**”.
 2. John may have been thinking of an arrow that misses its target.
 3. In this context, the target is God’s standard of perfection—**Matt.5:48**.
 4. Since we all miss this mark every day, we must confess our daily sins so our fellowship with God will be restored.

II. SECOND, THERE IS CONFIDENCE IN OUR FORGIVENESS— “He is Faithful and Just”.

- A. What does it mean that God is “faithful”?
1. The Greek word for “faithful” is “**pistos**” and it means “**reliable, trustworthy and dependable**.”
 2. It means we can trust God to keep His promise to forgive us if we confess our sin.
- B. What does it mean that God is “just”?
1. The Greek word for “just” is “**dikaios**” and means “**righteous or upright**.”
 2. This means God doesn’t just ignore our sins because that would be unjust.
 3. Instead, God sent His Son to pay for our sins.
 4. Someone put it like this: “**We owed a debt that we could not pay, but Jesus paid a debt that he did not owe.**”—**1 Peter 2:24**.

III. THIRD, THERE IS CONFIRMATION OF OUR FORGIVENESS— “And (He) Will Forgive Our Sins and Purify Us From All Unrighteousness.”

- A. The word “forgive” means **“to be carried away.”—Micah 7:19.**
- B. The word “purify” means **“to be made clean or holy”—Isa. 1:18.**
- C. The word “all” means **“the entirety, the whole or every bit”—1 John 1:7b.**