

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor's Bible Hour – March 2, 2008

Tabernacle of Praise – Pastor G. Richardson

www.topmanteca.org

1Jo 2:12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

1Jo 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

1Jo 2:14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

“are forgiven” – “have been, and are forgiven you”: ALL God's *sons and daughters* alike enjoy this privilege.

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pro 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO GOD

1. **The Side of Love and forgiveness:** Keep yourselves in the love of God
2. The side of Judgment

Rom 11:21 For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee.

Rom 11:22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

Rom 11:23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again.

Mat 21:44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Act 4:11 This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN REASONABLE IN HIS MERCY

Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isa 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Isa 1:20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

Gen 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

IT IS THE GOODNESS OF GOD THAT LEADS TO HIS MERCY AND FORGIVENESS

Rom 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

1. **Who Forgiveth and Healeth all thy diseases:**

Psa 103:2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Psa 103:3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Psa 103:4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Psa 103:5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good *things*; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psa 103:3 -

Who forgiveth - The benefits are the following,

1. Forgiveness of sin.
2. Restoration of health: "Who healeth all thy diseases."

1. **Forgiveness is one of God's most powerful weapons against the devil.**

THREE TIMES THAT JESUS WROTE

1. Commandments on Tablets of Stone: **LAW**
2. On the wall of Bellshazzar's drunken party: **JUDGMENT**
3. On the Ground of a condemned women: **GRACE**

Psa 85:9 Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

Psa 85:10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*.

Psa 85:11 Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

THE LAW COULD ONLY CONDEMN BUT GRACE AND TRUTH MET TOGETHER

Joh 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Rom 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Rom 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Tit 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF REDEMPTION

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

1. **The Story of Redemption began in the Garden of Eden** when God clothed Adam and Eve in a covering from an animal which gave its own blood for their covering.
2. **The Blood line of redemption flows throughout the Bible** and is connected to God's great plan of redemption.
3. **The Blood of Jesus Christ which connects us to eternal life** ends its flow with the song of the redeemed.

Rev 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

4. It took the Blood of a lamb sprinkled on the door posts of the Israelites to deliver them out of Egypt and bring to them a new hope and a new life of liberty.

THE BOOK OF EXODUS HAS A TWO FOLD DIVISION IN THE BOOK

1. Chapters **one** through **eighteen** in the book of Exodus are chapters on redemption.
2. Chapters **nineteen** through **forty** are chapters of relationship.
3. **The First Passover**: Was an eventful night and a turning point in Israel's History. It was their Fourth of July, or their Independence Day, which was to forever re-remind them of their deliverance. A national birthday, representing as it were the birth of a nation.

CALVARY

1. **Calvary**: Is the very pivot point of all History. All prior things pointing forward to Calvary and all things after Calvary point back to it.
2. **To get to Pentecost you must pass Calvary**: We often get in a hurry to get to Pentecost. We often fail to really realize what Calvary really means.
3. **It was there at Calvary God proved His great love for this world.**

1Jo 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of *God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

4. **At the cross, Jesus taught a great lesson**: It was an object lesson, it wasn't taught as a discourse. There is no introduction, explanation, or conclusion set forth. But his response to an unreasonable, vehement hatred makes us all stand in awe.

Luk 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

WHEN JESUS FORGAVE

1. There was a tremendous release of power that penetrated the universe, and funneled down to the earth.
2. All the sins of all ages prior to Calvary to this present day were forgiven when His blood was shed on Calvary.
3. The Devil cannot work in the presence of forgiveness. When Jesus said “FATHER FORGIVE THEM” Hell was bound the veil of the Temple was rent intwain. And mercy came dancing out from the mercy seat and danced it’s way down the streets of Jerusalem, touching the thief on the cross, reaching down and took a centurion by the hand. And continued it dance down to the graveyard and kicked over some tombstones. And some of the Old Testament saints enjoyed a mini rapture and appeared in Jerusalem. And mercy dove down into Hell and took the keyes of death and hell.

Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

4. **Forgiveness touches three worlds:** The Past, The Present, And the Future.
5. **When Jesus Forgave,** flesh was affected, angels, hell demons, the devil was bound and sinners can be set free.
6. **When people forgive one another,** the power of ‘God is released. When individuals and churches forgive one another thy all experience revival. When forgiveness is present, principalities and powers and hell are neutralized. The Devil has to back up without a word, problems are solved and revival begins to break forth.