

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL

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A PARDON FULL AND FREE

BY

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LESSON TEXT: *“Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly Pardon.”* (Isaiah 55:5-6)

The context of my lesson scripture has to do with the plan of salvation, for the souls of mankind. It sets forth the thirst, and the hunger that a lost soul experiences, and the laboring for that which satisfieth not. Then God says, *“harken diligently”*, listen closely, *“come unto me, and your soul shall live”*. Not only will your soul live, but *“your soul shall delight itself in fatness”*. Complete Satisfaction!

How is that possible? This scripture promises an *“abundant pardon”* to those who forsake their own ways, and return unto the Lord. The phrase *“Abundantly pardon”* sums up the meaning of my lesson title completely; **“A Pardon, Full and Free”**.

A pardon presupposes guilt; that one was guilty of breaking the law; and sentenced to serve punishment. *“For the wages of sin is death,”* (Romans 6:23) Therefore a pardon is absolution! It is a legal release from both the guilt and the punishment the law requires. The legal term in the scripture for this release is **Justification**. Paul says, *“Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”* (Romans 5:1-2)

Pardon and justification are closely related as one follows the other and both entail the **forgiveness of all sin**. It appears to me that repentance granted, (Acts 11:18) and the **forgiveness of all sin** comes first, followed by an *“abundant pardon”*, including freedom from the guilt and the punishment demanded by the law. My proof text is, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”* (Romans 8:1-2) Also, this gives us favor with God, and a standing in his grace, as one of his children.

The pardon is indeed full and it's free. It is an act of God's grace and mercy. Paul says, *“But God who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)* (Ephesians 2:4-5)

A pardon is not only an act of God's grace, in as much as the pardon is undeserved; it is also an act of mercy, because it sets aside the just punishment that is required by law.

Although, a pardon releases the penitent sinner from the requirement to being punished for his crimes; the pardon does not make one righteous! That is why justification by faith in Jesus Christ is part and parcel of the plan of salvation. In our natural born state, ***we are all transgressors of the Law***. “*As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*” (Romans 3:10-11) “*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; Romans 6:23) That’s not the end of the story!*

Listen to Paul, “*Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight” ... “But the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: ”* (Romans 3:20-22)

A further explanation is given by Paul - He includes redemption and the shedding of the blood of Christ essential in obtaining righteousness. “*Being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (a sacrifice that makes everything all right, between God and Man) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare I say, at this time his righteousness: that he may be just and the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus.* (Romans 3:23-26)

“*For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, (the promise of God) and it was counted (credited) unto him for righteousness.*” Even as “*David also described the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*” (Romans 4:3)

Who can grant pardons? In our society Governors of states can grant reprieves and pardons to those convicted under their state’s criminal laws. Presidents have power to grant reprieves and pardons to those convicted in the U.S. under Federal Laws; except in cases of impeachment.

However, in matters relating to the condemned state of Adams fallen race, there is only one who can grant a pardon that absolves all sin, past, present, and future; set aside the punishment of eternal death, free the condemned sinner, and reinstate all rights and privileges that were lost in the fall of Adam. This is indeed an **Abundant Pardon**. God looks at those of us that have been pardoned and he sees only the righteousness of Jesus, that was given to us because we believed in Jesus. The Question is asked, “Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth.” The Devil, and men may charge is, but they can’t make the charges stick. It is it is It is God who Justified us, and he looks at us as though we were never guilty of any sin.

Some things that a pardon is not.

A pardon does not imply innocence: We were never innocent; we were shapen in iniquity and in sin we were conceived. (Psalms 51:5) That means both of our parents had a sinful nature. In fact we were sinners, but now we are saints, not because of works, but because of the washing of regeneration, and the perpetual cleansing by the blood of Jesus. (See Titus 3:3-7 and 1 John 1:9)

A pardon is not a reprieve: Which is a temporary delay in punishment without changing the sentence.

A pardon is not Clemency: Which means to show leniency. There is no clemency for the ungodly. The wrath of God will be poured out on them without mixture; meaning full strength. See Revelations 14:10-11 and John 3:36)

A pardon is not an Acquittal: Not guilty of the crime with which he is charged. All are Guilty.

A pardon is not a parole: A parole is a release from punishment before the sentence is completed, provided the convicted person maintains good behavior. If the parolee don't comply he will be subject to the execution of the original sentence, and perhaps more punishment added.

God's children are not free, depending on good behavior. That would mean Salvation is not by grace, but contingent, which means subject to chance with no assurance of eternal life in Heaven.