

## **FORGIVENESS: WHAT A BLESSING**

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It is a sad fact that man sins. Yet, it is a wonderful thought that our God forgives. “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 55:7). Micah said, “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity...” (Micah 7:18). He removes the sin from our record and restores us to our former condition. What a blessing to be treated as if we had never sinned! Let’s consider a few points about this grand blessing.

#### **OFFERED TO ALL**

The prophet Joel said, “**whosoever** shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Joel 2:32, emphasis mine DVR). Paul quotes this prophet in Romans 10 to demonstrate that all have the same opportunity. God offers salvation to one and all alike. Thus, it doesn’t matter about your race, sex, age, education or social status – you can receive the forgiveness of sins.

#### **FORGIVENESS OF EVERY SIN**

There is no sin so great that one cannot be forgiven. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from “all sin” and “all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:7, 9). When someone feels that their sin is greater than can be forgiven, they minimize the power of the blood of Christ. It doesn’t matter how “big” the sin is or how many sins you have committed. You can be forgiven of every one of them. Oh, what a blessing!

#### **COMPLETE AND FINAL**

Forgiveness is complete and final in the sense that God will never remember those sins against us anymore. Under the Old Covenant the sacrifices were not capable of completely removing the sins of the people. Their sins would be remembered again every year. In contrast, the new covenant offers forgiveness wherein God says, “their iniquities will I remember no more” (Hebrews 8:12).

If God is willing to forget our sins, then so should we. Quite often someone will treat his/herself as if he/she is still guilty of the sin. Paul encourages us to forget the things which are behind us (Philippians 3:13). Learn to trust the Lord and believe that he has forgiven us when he says he has.