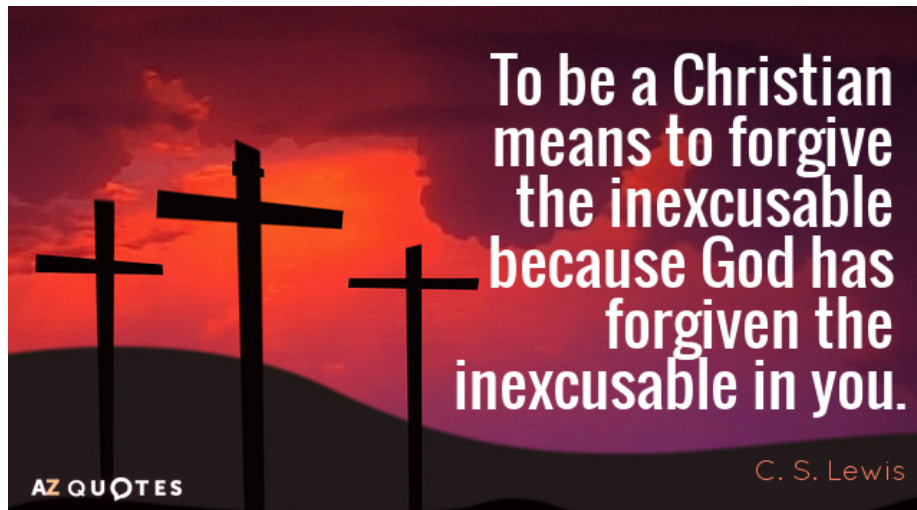


BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW MEMBER LESSON #4 – FORGIVENESS



Introduction

Stop! Don't shut this page down! All of us at some point in our lives have been forgiven or have had the need to forgive someone else. We are at this point in our study because you have committed your life to God and He has forgiven you all your sins and trespasses.

Forgiveness is the deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or group. Deliberate, infers we had to reason with ourselves and come to the conclusion that God's way is the best way. Jesus is the model for forgiveness and when we pattern our decisions after Him, we get a positive result.

LESSON

This lesson will discuss the origin of forgiveness, the necessity of forgiveness and the requirements of every believer to live free from the burden of sin and un-forgiveness. When we confessed by faith that Jesus is Lord we gave Him ruling authority on all matters pertaining to life and Godliness.

Origin of Forgiveness:

Old Testament Forgiveness:

(Leviticus 4:6-10, 20) The Priest had to offer burnt sacrifices for himself and the people to atone for any wrong doings since the last sacrifice. This ritual was performed every time the Priest had to enter into the presence of the Lord. The blood of animals was sprinkled throughout the tabernacle in order to cleanse the people from wrong and to gain the attention of God to pray. Imagine the Pastor having to kill an animal and sprinkle blood around the stage before getting up to preach. The sanctuary would be a mess and most of the Congregation would probably stay home.

New-Testament Forgiveness:

The blood of animals was not enough to permanently remove the sins of humankind. God had a plan, as he always does. In the New Testament (Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7) the blood Jesus shed on the Cross forgave

the sins of all humanity yesterday, today and tomorrow. The death of Jesus took the penalty of sin and cancelled sin's debt. This makes Jesus the only one with the power to forgive sin and wipe the slate clean forever. (Mark 2:3-12).

We serve an awesome God who loved us from the beginning. The Bible (John 3:16) says He loved us so much that He decided to give his Son as the sacrifice for our sins. Love does not get any sweeter than this. Recipients of this love are forgiven as we repent and believe on the name of His Son Jesus! Romans 10:13 says "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved". Salvation is the forgiveness of all sins committed.

Responsibility of the Believer:

The beauty of all of this is, once we repent (turn away from doing wrong) and believe (place faith in Jesus and the word of God) we are forgiven forever. Hebrews 8:12 "*The Lord says, I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more*". Does this mean we will never sin again? Absolutely Not! However, when we sin, immediately repent, ask God for forgiveness and do what is right. 1John 1:9 says if we confess our sin, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive and to cleanse us from all wrong. WOW!

We can depend on Jesus. We have over coming Victory in His name. As we submit-commit to God the enemy will leave us alone for a while. Yes, that old devil will try to make us forget our position in Christ, but we have the power of the Word of God as our ammunition. Jesus faced many temptations and trails to which he always responded with the word and so can we.

We began this discussion stating we must decide and make a deliberate decision to go the right way. Forgiveness is not saying the other person was right, it's identifying with Christ and allowing his love to move us forward. Holding on to evil will rot the soul. No one ever gets away with wrong. All wrong will be handled by the Lord. Christians will be challenged in every area of life; however we have the same power given to Jesus to make good choices. When we pray, read and apply the word of God to our situations, we gain new insight, wisdom, strength and a life full of joy and peace.

REVIEW

1. What is forgiveness?

2. Who has the power to forgive sin?

3. Are sins that are committed after accepting Christ forgiven?

4. What is the Christian's responsibility if he/she falls into sin or does something wrong?

5. Is forgiveness a choice?

6. What is the advantage of forgiving someone else?

Name

Date