

SO FORGIVE

Has this ever happened to you? You're reading a passage in the Scripture. It is one you have read maybe dozens of times. Suddenly a part of that Scripture jumps out at you and it is as if the Holy Spirit reaches out and grabs you by the lapel and shakes you and says strongly, "Pay attention to this!" Has that ever happened to you? Well, it recently happened to me.

I was in the book of Colossians doing research for another article and came to Colossians 3:12-13: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; if any man have a quarrel against any; *even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*" Ephesians 4:31-32 says essentially the same thing: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." This is not a suggestion but a command.

And I wondered why, how, what, and how much has God in Christ Jesus forgiven me/us?

I. We have forgiveness by the *blood* of Jesus

Ephesians 1:7 – "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace:..."

II. Jesus *bore* our sins

I Peter 2:21-24 – "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ who suffered for us, leaving unto us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who when he was reviled, reviled not again: when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

III. In so doing He *became* sin for us

II Corinthians 5:21 – “For he (God) hath made him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who (Jesus) knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

IV. Jesus was *beaten* and *bruised* for us

Isaiah 53:4-5 – “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our place was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

V. And with all these things Jesus *bought* us because we were “sold under sin” (Romans 7:14)

I Corinthians 6:20 – “For ye are bought with a price.” Jesus paid it all!

VI. In light of all the above things dare we as believers forget the *benefit* of forgiveness?!

Psalms 103:2-3 – “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all they diseases.”

There is much more that can be said of God’s compassionate and complete forgiveness of our sins. But that is only half of the story. No only has God in Jesus

Christ forgiven our sins, He has forgotten them. God in Jesus Christ has:

I. *Blotted* out our sins

Isaiah 43:25 – “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”

Acts 3:19 – “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...”

II. *Buried* our sins

Micah 7:18-19 – “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”

III. *Banished* our sins

Psalms 103:12 – “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”

Yes, yes, yes! God has forgotten our sins. “And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more” (Hebrews 10:17). Sins forgiven and forgotten.

And so, “even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

So forgive.

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