

What's Wrong? Be Right!

FORGIVEN Now and Forever

Matthew 18:21,22

*Sins all Forgiven! Guilt all Gone!
from **Jesus to you with love***

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These studies were first offered to listeners on my broadcast - *BibleLine Radio*. Here they are meant to minister to you too.

What is Forgiving?

“Forgive” means to release, pardon, turn loose, set free forever - from a bad deed or an unpaid debt. The Bible shows us forgiveness in its highest form - God forgives forever!

The One and Only high and holy LORD God Almighty - in the Person of the Messiah-Savior Jesus - wants to forgive our sins. Yes He does. He is more willing to forgive than we are to sin.

Who Needs Forgiving?

God is all-knowing. From all eternity past - God knew us all. He knows every person on the planet - whatever century, country, culture, color, class, creed - God sees us all. And He knows we are all - lost sinners. In fact and in act we all prove the sin-guilt of our fallen human nature and sinner condition.

God always tells it like it is. So His Word says, shows - we all owe a deep, dark, indelible sin-debt to the high, holy LORD God Almighty. It is an infinite sin-debt - that none of us can pay - not now - not forever. So - God says we all justly await judgment - destined to “Go to Hell.”

Why be Forgiven?
God is Perfect! So is His Heaven!
Sin Cannot Get In!

God is by nature and action - all-perfect - absolutely, infinitely righteous, holy, true, gracious, good, loving. So is His Heaven. God says He will keep it that way - forever. He says it loud and clear for all in Heaven and Earth to hear -

“The fearful, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sex-sinners, sorcerers, idolaters, all liars will have their part in the lake of fire. There will no way enter (Heaven) anyone who defiles, works abomination, or a lie - only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

“Outside (shut out of Heaven forever) are dogs (false teachers and preachers), sorcerers (psychics, mediums, etc), porno-sex-people, murderers, idolaters, and whoever loves and makes a lie” (Revelation 21:8,27; 22:15).

All these will have their part in the lake burning with fire and brimstone - the second - and eternal - death. Cut off from God.

For any sinner to be saved from eternal Hell-fire - and given full, free, forever entre’ into God’s high, holy, happy Heaven - we must be forgiven, washed, cleansed from all our sins - made right with God - forgiven the infinite sin-debt we owe Him.

We All Have Sinned

In dark, stark, infinite contrast to God’s holiness - you and I - and all people on this sad, mad, bad news planet are full of sin.

Each of us - all of us - in our crimson-red, scarlet-stained sins - are an infinite offense to the infinite holiness of the Lord God Almighty. And - He cannot - does not - will not - accept our so-called “good deeds” of charity, penance, religion - to pay our infinite sin-debt against Him. Not now. Not forever. Nothing good we do can save us. Only Jesus Christ Himself.

Why not? Because all that you and I are, or have, or do - even what to us seems good - is soiled and spoiled, by the stain of our sins. So God says it - and the Bible records it:

They are all under sin. There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none who understands, none who seeks after God. They are all gone out of His way, unprofitable. There is none who does good, no, not one. That every mouth may be stopped, and all the world guilty before God.

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The soul that sins - it shall die. The wage of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life thru Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ died for our sins, and He was buried, and He rose again the third day. Christ died for the sins of the whole world (Romans 3:9-23; 6:23; I Corinthians 15:3,4; I John 2:2).

Count Your Sins - God Does

Look at those profound Words: “*The sins of the whole world.*” How many sins is that? It’s an absurd question, isn’t it. Really. But look to your computer. Add up all the sins of all the world in all Ages in man’s history, sins of every century, continent, country, tribe, family, person. Christ Jesus died for them all.

Today - over six billion sinners are on Planet Earth - and daily - we all fail in some way to do right in God’s sight.

Now - multiply. At one-sin-a-day each (absurdly low count) - six billion people do six billion sins - daily - 365 days a year. That’s 2.1 **trillion** sins - every year. At just one-sin-a-day.

Now multiply that times 6,000 years of human history. That’s 12 **quadrillion** sins - at one-sin-a-day apiece. And - we all know we all sin vastly more than one-a-day. Every tho’t, deed, word where you and I ignore, deny, defy God’s Word - is an infinite offense against the infinite holiness of God Almighty. It is all incalculably gross evil. God simply calls it “sin.”

“All have sinned, and come short of God’s glory.”

The Soul that Sins Shall Die - Forever

When God says, *The soul that sins shall die, the wage of sin is death* - He means dead to God - forever - shut out from Him - cast into outer darkness - the lake of fire Jesus called "Hell."

You see it. God cannot, will not, does not let unredeemed, unforgiven, unchanged sinners into His Heaven - not forever.

Why not? Well, think again. If He let us sinners into His high, holy, happy Heaven - without forgiving, cleansing, changing, transforming our old rebel self-will - we'd all soon wreck Heaven - just as we're ruining to this pristine little planet He gave us to tend. We all know it's true, don't we. Yes we do.

All sinners, who in their God-given lifespan on earth - choose to come in faith, trust, to the Savior-Lord Jesus Christ - He saves, forgives, changes to be like Him - ready for Heaven.

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be. But we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

So - what must we do to be saved - to "Go to Heaven" - not "Go to Hell?" Who can forgive our sins - free us from our sin-debt to God? Who can make lost, helpless sinners fit to live forever in His high, holy, happy Heaven? Who? Only Jesus.

Only Jesus Can Save Sinners

Jesus alone is "*holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, higher than the Heavens.*" Only His life is of infinite, absolute worth to pay the infinite redemption price for our infinite sin-debt to God - and to give us His infinite pardon.

God the Savior-Son - Jesus Himself - paid in full our sin-debt. How? He died on the Cross to take our just judgment - pay in full the righteous penalty for our sins. And Jesus Christ arose

from the dead - alive forever - to save sinners who trust Him.

God the Father in Heaven - only accepts the pure, perfect, sinless Person and Work of Jesus - in our behalf - to give us His full, free, forever forgiveness - to save us out of Hell's just judgment - save us for His own high, holy, happy Heaven. Jesus did it - giving up His own sinless life-blood on the Cross - for all our sins - for all the sins of the whole world.

Now, all that God calls us to do - to forgive us - make us His new-born child - is to come in simply faith to Jesus.

God never calls us to religions, or rituals, nor to follow other (false) gods, nor to try bootstrap, ego-stroking, self-efforts. Not at all. None of the above. Jesus alone - saves, forgives anyone - who forgets self-pride - forgets religion - and comes as a lost sinner to trust in Him - personally. He calls all people:

*“Come to Me, all who labor . . . heavy-laden,
I will rest you.*

“Whoever believes in Me has everlasting life.”

*“In Him we have redemption thru His blood,
even the forgiveness of sins.”*

Guilt is Global

Sin is a planetary problem - haunting billions daily. We all sin. And sin brings guilt. So, we all have a sin-guilty conscience. It keeps many in business trying to bring rest to sin-guilty souls.

The wicked are like the troubled sea, it cannot rest, its waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, says my God, to the wicked (Isaiah 57:20,21).

From the least to the greatest - they are all covetous. From prophet to priest - every one deals falsely - saying, “Peace, peace”, when there is no peace.

Were they ashamed in committing abomination? No! Not at all ashamed. So, they will fall - at the time I visit them they will be cast down, says the LORD (Jeremiah 6:13-16).

Sin-guilt labors us, overloads us with soul-stress, heart, mind, body unrest. Sin burdens us with inner anxiety, depression, with ills of all sorts - mental ills, emotional, physical, social. Note of the myriads of commercial ads for calming antidotes.

So - what's the answer - where's the relief - for our sin-guilt? Relief is spelled - "*J-E-S-U-S!*" Believe it! Only God's pardon of our sins relieves our guilt. No one - in Heaven or Earth can forgive our sin-debts - except God Himself.

Isaiah the prophet - wrote God's truth of you and me - 64:6 -
We are all as an unclean thing, all our (self) righteousnesses are as filthy rags, we all do wither as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have blown us away.

So, how do we lost sinners come to the high, holy God? Only with a broken and contrite heart. King David said it for us all -
Sacrifice You do not desire, or I would give it. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God You will not despise (Psalm 51).

We sinners - come to God - only with a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart - bowed to Him - or - we don't come at all.

To seek God's grace, love, forgiving mercy, we must believe, receive His own beloved, only-begotten Savior-Son Jesus. Period. Only Jesus paid our sin-debt against God. He did it by giving His own life-blood. The song-writer said it simply
"Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow."

Isaiah the prophet wrote God's call to all people on the planet - His loving mercy-invitation - Isaiah 1:18 -
Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD, though your sins are as scarlet they shall be as white as snow, though they are crimson-red they shall be as wool.

Long ago, the great Christmas glory-angel said it to us all -
*Fear not! Behold - I bring you Good News
of great joy to all people
- the Savior - Christ the Lord!*

Jesus Christ Himself - is God's Good News - offered to all people on this sad, mad, bad news planet. Only Jesus Himself saves lost sinners on this poor-soul, sin-plagued, sorrow-pained planet - who will say to Him in truth: "Lord Jesus, save me."

Mark it well - we all need God's loving forgiveness. All of us! Any sin - every sin that you and I do - whoever else we hurt or betray or offend - we first betray and offend Almighty God. No one in Heaven or Earth can forgive our sins against God. Only Jesus Christ Himself - God the Savior-Son - can forgive and free us from sin-guilt. He does it - when we come to Him.

What Won't Remove Our Guilt

Nothing! No one! Only Jesus can free us from sin-guilt. Trying - without Jesus - to remove sin-guilt, ease a guilty conscience - is a lost cause. Trying to be clean and right in God's sight - is impossible - without Jesus.

To calm sin-guilty soul-stress - millions, maybe billions - turn to booze, or drugs ("medications"), or to sex, or money, or to self-loving, self-indulgence in "things." All fail. Yes they do.

Others seek sin-guilt relief from psycho-shrinks, or silly psychics, or pseudo-religious gurus, or priests, or preachers - of every sort. None bring true heart-peace, real soul-rest. None.

None but Jesus, "*the Prince of Peace.*" He gives the best stress-rest - in spirit, soul, mind, body. Count on it.

How does He do that? By forgiving our sins He brings His real soul-peace within. In this sad, mad war-weary world - every man, woman, teen, child needs the peace of God. Jesus said -

Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God. Believe in Me too (Jesus is God). Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives give I to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid (John 14:1,27).

We try to find peace in loving ourself. We are told to “feel good” about sin-guilty “self.” We try hard to calm and quiet (silence) a guilty conscience saying within us, “*I have sinned against the Lord!*” But we have no peace.

Jesus Himself - is God’s Good News to us all on this sad, mad, bad news planet. Jesus offers us His infinite mercy, His “amazing grace - how sweet the sound”, His absolute-power love - His full and forever blessings. All are available to us all - if we come in simple trust to Jesus - God the Savior-Son.

You get the picture. God’s best blessings begin with His forgiveness of sins - to be right with Him - now and forever.

Pity the Fool

Pity the fool - who takes God’s good daily blessings - every heartbeat, life-breath, muscle-movement, good-mind-thought - but ignores the Savior who gives us all these gifts - and more. In ignoring the Savior Jesus - he or she loses the beauty, bounty, blessings of His Heaven - forever. Tragic but true.

Jesus Forgives Sin

King Solomon had it right - “*There is no one who sins not!*” The Bible says it in many places and ways - beginning with Adam and Eve - to the present hour: “*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*”

You know it, I know it - we all sin. And in our sin - we all deserve the high, holy God’s righteous judgment. So - all people on this sin-plagued planet - need God’s mercy-pardon.

God spells out His forgiveness in His Book - *The Bible* - the One and Only Book - with God's own - "triple A" - All Absolute Answers - the high, holy, loving, living, eternal life giving, power-filled, peace-giving, promise-keeping, problem-solving, people-saving - *Word of God*.

God reveals His pardon plan all thru the Bible. Two special New Testament power-passages give us His plan to forgive.

The Gospel according to Dr. Luke - chapter 17

The Gospel according to Matthew - chapter 18

First - read with me - Dr. Luke's Gospel - 17:3,4 - Jesus said -

Take heed to yourselves: If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, "I repent" - you forgive him.

Then - read with me - Matthew's Gospel - 18:21,22 -

Peter came to Him (Jesus) and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him - seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I say to you - not seven times - but seventy times seven."

Luke 17:3,4

Here Jesus gave us His positive pardon plan. He calls us, commands us - to show to others the kind of loving mercy-pardon that He shows us when we repent and come to Him. Look - line by line - Luke 17:3,4. Jesus said it -

"Take heed to yourselves . . . We all need to see self - as Jesus sees us: all sinners - needing Him. We need His loving forgiving. We need to forgive others. We love "sinner-self" - when Jesus says to "Empty self, Humble self, Deny self, Give up self, to Love God first, to love others second - as we (already) love self."

When we truly “*take heed to self*” we see our own deep need for His forgiving us, and our forgiving others. Yes we do.

“*If your brother sins against you . . .* No one is exempt - it happens to us all - people wrong us, sin against us. When it is a brother or sister who sins against us, our pain is doubly deeper. Of course, the reverse is true too - when you and I sin against others - especially a brother or sister - we cause them deep hurt, harm, unhappiness. Yes we do. We all know it’s true.

“*Rebuke him . . .* Jesus rebukes us when we sin - in His so great love. By His holy Word - thru His Holy Spirit - He convicts us - of sin (we do), of righteousness (we don’t do), of judgment (we are all due). Jesus said it:

He - the Holy Spirit - will convict (rebuke) the world of sin, righteousness, judgment (John 16:7-11).

The Holy Spirit of God by the Word of God contrasts our lives to the perfect Savior-Son of God - Jesus. He lays on all of us - guilt-trips - gives us a sin-guilty conscience. It’s good for us.

Modern thought tries to ignore the guilty conscience. It says, “feel good about yourself.” Even when we know we are wrong . The result is denial of our sins and guilt, shame and blame-shifting - ignoring our responsibility - for sins and wrongs - against God and others.

Guilt is good. It is God-given. Guilt is to the soul what pain is to the body. Pain says to the body, “Something’s wrong. Fix it.” Guilt says to the soul, “Something’s wrong. Fix it!” Hopefully we get God’s help for both.

God sees us as we are - sin-guilty. He never ignores or denies our wrongs or sins. He tells it like it is. We must too. God rebukes us - sometimes in righteous anger - always in pure love. And He is willing to forgive our sins, free us from sin-guilt.

If He were to ignore our sins we would not come to Him, confess our sins to Him. They would stay in us - unforgiven - our conscience would be calloused, "*Seared with a hot iron.*"

So - God confronts us, convicts us, calls us to repent and confess to Him our sin. When we do - He forgives, forgets our sin - every time, all the time (see I John 1:5---2:2). Count on it!

"If he repents . . . "Repent" - means a "mind-change" - to rethink our wrongs, our sins, to see them as God does. The closer we walk with Jesus the more sensitive our hearts grow toward Him - the more our sins trouble us, grieve us, load us with guilt. And the more willing we are to repent, confess, run to Him. And to those we sin against.

"Forgive him. When one who sins against us - repents - Jesus said we must happily and instantly forgive - just as He forgives all who repent and confess to Him.

Forgive means to "*release, turn loose, set free.*" Forgive means to "*forget the debt.*" It's one of God's rich blessings.

Only Jesus is sinless. He owes no sin-debt. He never needs to repent, confess, seek pardon - from anyone. Why is this true? Because He is the eternal Lord God Almighty - shown, known in pure, perfect human flesh - God the high, holy Savior-Son!

By stark contrast - you and I - and all people on the planet - are guilty sinners - totally! Yet, Jesus says He will make us blameless - right in God's sight - **IF** - we come in faith to Him.

His loving forgiving - frees us from all sin-blame, sin-shame. He cleanses us, restores us to His own full family fellowship - now and forever. He does it daily - if - we come to Jesus.

"If he sins . . . you seven times a day Aye, there's the rub!
Forgiving one who sins

against us once, or twice, yes, even three times - seems most magnanimous. But - seven times in a day!?! Never! No way! Yet - God does it - to us all - every day. Believe it!

“And seven times in a day returns, saying, ‘I repent . . .’”

Question: If we sin the same sin - against the same person - seven times a day - is our repenting real? Jesus said it can be.

Think about it. Does your sin trouble you? How about a second time? Third? If not - your heart is turning to stone. People who feel real sin-guilt - can truly repent.

All who ignore their sin-guilt - will face Judge Jesus - still in their sins - unforgiven forever. We all need to repent and come to Jesus. He is ready, willing, able to forgive us. Yes He is. *“He is more willing to forgive than we are to sin.”*

“You forgive him . . .” This shows us the loving and patient heart of God. Jesus tells you and me that any who sin against us - and repent - we must *“forgive - seven times a day”* - every day. Now, that’s positive pardon. Try it in your bank. Will they forgive your debt? Not at all!

Never let anyone tell you God is negative. He is altogether power-positive. We all are negative - we all do wrong stuff. Yet - in Jesus - God forgives us - every time we come to Him.

What’s the Point?

The all-important point is this: Jesus tells us to forgive all who sin against us and repent - even if it is - *“seven times in a day.”* Why do that? Because it like His own loving, forgiving heart.

Think of His loving forgiving. He is absolutely willing to forgive you and me when we repent, confess our sins to Him. It’s fact: *“Jesus is more willing to forgive than we are to sin.”*

Forgiving as God Forgives

Matthew 18:21,22

Here Jesus again lifts His pardon standard even higher - closer to His own Heaven-high pardon plan - His loving forgiving! Read it, remember it, rejoice, rest in it! Matthew 18:21,22 -

“Peter came to Him and said - ‘Lord’” Mark it clearly - all forgiveness of sins in God’s pardon plan - begins only - when two things happen -

One - we Come in faith to - Jesus Christ Himself -

Two - we Confess that - *“Jesus Christ is Lord.”*

Peter called Jesus *“Lord.”* And he was right - Jesus Christ is Lord of all. Today - He is Savior Jesus. All who refuse Him in this brief lifespan on earth - will face Him as - Judge Jesus.

Jesus alone pardons sins against God. Without Jesus - no one is forgiven - ever. God’s loving pardon is not in religion, rituals, rules - not in self-effort. Only in Jesus.

“How often . . . Peter was still counting sins done to him. It’s a common trait, isn’t it, holding a grudge, nursing a hurt. We fret, fume, fight over offenses done to us. Such ill-will can grow into hate, even violence, cause soul-stress, fear, anxiety, depression. Peter said - *“How often?”* He would learn - that life is too short to be - unforgiving.

“Shall my brother sin . . . True family-love cares - and forgives - always. Remember Joseph? One of Jacob’s sons. A founding father in Israel. Joseph’s brothers hated him - sinned against him - big time - sold him as a slave. But God greatly blessed Joseph, made him second ruler over Egypt, the most powerful nation in his day. In his *“absolute power”* rule Joseph could have justly punished

his bad brothers - even with death. And when at last they faced him, their sin-guilt filled them with fear, anxiety, dread. They all asked his pardon. Read Joseph's loving, forgiving words:

“Fear not! You thought evil against me, but God meant it for good . . . to save many people alive. Now, fear not! I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them, and spoke kindly to them.

That, folks, is true power pardon. And, in his loving forgiving, Joseph gave us a great picture of the loving Lord Jesus, who spoke His own loving pardon for the men who nailed Him to the Cross - as He was dying for their sins. God the Son - dying on earth - called on God the Father in Heaven:

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Stephen, the first Jesus-martyr, was stoned to death by rebels who hated his faithful Jesus-witness. As they stoned Stephen, he called on Jesus - not for rescue or revenge - but for mercy on his killers: *“Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.”*

Both of these men were like the Lord Jesus Christ - loving, caring, forgiving the people who sinned against them.

*“Sin against me . . . Sin is personal, painful - “against **me**.”*

What do we do about sinner words and acts against - us? Jesus said - *“Forgive.”* Some seek to avenge, retaliate, “get even.” Jesus said - *“Blessed are the peace-makers, for they will be called sons of God.”*

Sin is offensive, it hurts us. And - every sin that you and I do is an infinite, personal affront, offense, injustice, grief - to the loving heart of God. It is painful to God that our sins - mine and yours - put His own beloved, only begotten Savior-Son on the Cross. Yet, He offers to forgive us all. Yes He does.

*“And I forgive him . . . Pardon is personal. But not painful.
Pardon is a special pleasure - for it
blesses both the forgiver and the forgiven. Shakespeare's
“Merchant of Venice” has lady lawyer Portia speak these wise
and important words that we all need to read and heed:*

*“The quality of mercy is not strained,
it drops as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath.
It is twice blessed,
it blesses him that gives and him that takes.”*

Shakespeare said it well. Jesus Christ said it first and best -
“Forgive.”

“Seven times?” Israeli tradition said to forgive once,
twice, thrice, no more. Peter’s heart was
right. He was willing to forgive a person - even seven times in
a day. Peter truly wanted to forgive as Jesus forgives.

Of course, we do not, cannot count all of our sins. But we do
tend to count sins done against us. Peter counted sins against
him - and he counted his pardons too. He thought his forgiving
was generous - *“seven times in a day.”*

But Jesus was about to show Peter that God’s love - does not
count the pardons we give others. When - if - we sinners repent
and come to Jesus - He pardons us - beyond all we can count.
He forgives us - all the time - every time we truly come to Him.

Jesus Said - Forgive - He Does!

Now - look again at our Lord’s answer to Peter - His amazing
grace positive power-pardon plan. It’s in - Matthew 18:22 -

*“Jesus said . . . When Jesus speaks - all Creation listens.
Only rebel sinner-man ignores Him. Jesus is
the Lord God of all Creation. When all lost people are raised
from the dead they will face the God they refused - Judge Jesus.*

Some Refuse God's Pardon

At that final resurrection - God's record books of the works of all lost sinners will be opened. They will not be opened to see if their good outweighs their bad. But to show - all in Heaven and earth - that in the lifespan of years God gave each one - they refused His love-call - refused Jesus - were not forgiven.

And - here's a tragic Hell-fact - from that final Judgment Day on - all lost people - in outer darkness - alone - will recall forever and ever - that they are in the lake of fire Jesus called - Hell - because they chose to reject Him.

When they face Judge Jesus - none will ask Him for "justice." True justice puts us sinners all in Hell. But at the Judgment - all will cry for His mercy-pardon - forever too late.

Mark it in your memory - Jesus gives us all a lifespan of years - to choose Him. Or choose to refuse Him. All who come in faith (trust, belief) to Jesus - He will forgive - free, full, final, forever. All who don't - He won't.

"Jesus said to him . . . Today's world ignores what Jesus said. And as Sir Robert Anderson wrote - today - Jesus is "Silent in the Heavens." He speaks only thru His high, holy, happy written Word - the Bible. Yes He does.

Millions seem to think that God's silence means He does not exist. Big, Big Mistake! But it's a mistake anyone can correct. Many do. They believe God's - *Good News of great joy to all people - the Savior - Christ the Lord.*

Jesus said He will speak again - from Heaven. Believe it - and be ready! For then He will be silent no longer.

See that you refuse not Him who speaks. He promised, "Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also Heaven!" Our God is a consuming fire.

When the Creator-Lord Jesus Christ returns - and speaks at last - all Heaven and Earth - will hear His voice - and tremble! All believers in Jesus will tremble in joy at His absolute power triumph - as He promised. All rebel **un**believers will tremble in stark terror - for they will face Judge Jesus - and Go to Hell.

God's Forgiving is Heaven-High

Peter no doubt felt he was forgiving as Jesus does, when he said, "*Shall I forgive seven times?*" But Jesus startled him -

*"I do not say to you, seven times,
but seventy times seven."*

Whoa! Big Difference! Forgiving someone seven times in a day is right and good - Jesus said so. But now - He raised up His pardon principle for man to man - way outa sight. We can call it "Heaven-high." Jesus said to Peter,

"Forgive . . . seventy times seven!"

That's 490 times, folks. In one day. Every day. Count them!

Judge Jesus - sees all our sins - against Him - against others. Savior Jesus - says He is willing to forgive them all. If we believe Him - see our rebel sins as He sees them - come to Him.

Jesus calls us to forgive as He forgives. Mark it indelibly in your heart - His absolute-power pardon is - infinite - instant - now and forever - to you and me - and all sinners on the planet - who say to Him, "Lord Jesus, I trust in You." So, have you?

Exactly How Far Does God Forgive?

Pardon to those who come to Jesus is - limitless - infinite. Paul said it - "*where sin abounded, grace super-abounded.*" "*God is rich in mercy, because of His great love, wherein He loved us*

even when we were dead in sins . . . He has made us alive together with Christ . . . has seated us in the Heavens - in Christ” (Romans 5:20; Ephesians 2:1-9).

This means - Jesus is willing to forgive all our sins - every evil thought, word, act. The prophet Isaiah opens his Book -

“Come now, let us reason together”, says the LORD, “Though your sins are as scarlet they will be white as snow, though they are crimson-red, they will be as wool” (1:18).

Teen-ager Isaiah knew his sins too - as we all do. He said it -

“Woe is me . . . I am undone . . . I am a man of unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips, for my eyes have seen the King - the LORD of hosts (Isaiah 6:1-7).

“We are all as an unclean thing, all our (self) righteousnesses are as filthy rags; we all do wither as a leaf, and our iniquities (breaking God’s Laws), like the wind have blown us away (Isaiah 64:6).

The more we learn and know about the Lord Jesus Christ, the more we see our deep sinfulness. It's why the chief priests, Pharisees, Sadducees hated and crucified Him. It's why rebel hearts all over this sin-guilty globe still despise and reject Him.

When young Isaiah saw the LORD - he saw his own sins - confessed his sins - was forgiven and cleansed by God. Then - he heard God’s wonderful pardoning words -

“Behold . . . your iniquity (breaking God’s Laws) is taken away, your sin is purged (purified)” (Isaiah 6:7).

So - how far exactly - do you think will God forgive, remove your sins? Isaiah described God’s *“super-abounding grace.”*

So - how far will God forgive you and me? Answer: *infinity!* If we seek Him, come to Jesus - He forgives us. He said it:

“Seek the LORD - while He may be found, call on Him - while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his ways, and the

unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:6,7).

It is the great amazing grace absolute-power pardon promise of the One and Only LORD God of the Bible.

So, come on now, be precise. Exactly how “*abundantly*” does Jesus pardon all who come to Him? God’s amazing grace thrilling answer is in the next two verses - Isaiah 55:8,9. God says His mercy-pardon is beyond, all that we can ask or think.

“He will have mercy - He will abundantly pardon . . . for My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. As the Heavens are higher than earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, My thoughts than yours.

God’s “*pardon thoughts and mercy ways*” are Heaven-high - super-abounding pardon thoughts - amazing grace forgiving ways - open, offered - to all people on the planet who come to Jesus: “*Seek Him, Call on Him.*”

Mark it! God’s loving forgiving is as measureless as the vast expanse of Heaven is high above tiny planet Earth. God’s mercy-pardon is as expansive as His highest Heaven - far out beyond this dark, stark little universe. It is as infinite as He is! God said it! That settles it! Believe it! Come to Jesus now!

“God is More Willing to Forgive than We Are to Sin”

King David knew God’s pardon firsthand, didn’t he. We all know his story. David broke three of God’s Commandments: “*Don’t covet a man’s wife, Don’t do adultery, Don’t murder.*” God’s prophet Nathan confronted David - walked into palace throne room, said to the sinner king, “*You are the man!*”

King David repented that day, changed his mind, stopped hiding his sins - confessed - “*I have sinned against the LORD!*”

And then - watch this wonder-truth - David learned God's amazing grace forgiveness of his sins. He wrote it - Psalm 103:

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquities (breaking God's Laws). The LORD is merciful . . . gracious, slow to anger . . . abounding in mercy. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.

As the Heavens are high above earth, so great is His mercy to those who fear Him. As far as east is from west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities all who fear Him. He knows our frame, He remembers we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass, so he flourishes . . . then the wind passes over . . . it is gone, its place remembers it no more.

But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting - on all who fear Him. The LORD prepared His throne in Heaven . . . His Kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, you His angels . . . Bless the LORD, all His hosts . . . Bless the LORD, all His works. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

You see it, don't you. David said it three times - God's mercy is to all who "fear Him." We ought to obey God because we love Him. But if not - we'd best obey because we "fear Him." God loves us - wants none to "Go to Hell." Jesus said it -

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (to die on the Cross) that whoever believes in Him should not perish (Go to Hell) but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world - thru Him - might be saved.

He who believes in Him is not judged. But he who believes not is judged already - because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He who believes on the Son has eternal life. He who believes not the Son will not see life, but God's wrath abides on him.

He is unforgiven - lost just because He chose to refuse Jesus.

All who refuse Jesus - have cause to “*Fear Him*” - Judge Jesus. Heaven is a real place - prepared for real “forgiven” people who trust in Jesus. Hell is real too - for real - “unforgiven” people who reject Jesus. Both Heaven and Hell are forever.

Peter said it - *God is not slack concerning His promise (to judge sins), but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that anyone perish - Go to Hell - but that all come to repentance.*

That’s the Gospel - Good News - Jesus gave us - Luke 24 -
Christ must suffer (death on the Cross), and rise from the dead the third day - and repentance and forgiveness of sins be preached in His name in all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Charles Spurgeon, great 19th Century London pastor of the 10,000 member Metropolitan Tabernacle - was a no-nonsense “by-the-Book” Bible preacher who knew that - God says what He means - means what He says - tells it like it is - always.

Spurgeon said, God made His Good News so simple that a child of five can believe it and come to Jesus. It’s true.

When Jesus walked the planet people brought infants to Him. His disciples rebuked them. But Jesus called them, and said,
Let the little children to come to Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God. Amen! I say to you, whoever will not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will no way enter therein.

Worldwide - millions of children are coming to Jesus.

Woe to those who keep children from Jesus and His great love. Jesus has special wrath for such folk.

Whoso receives a little child in My name receives Me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones who believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

But, again, pardon is open, offered to all who come to Jesus. Spurgeon wrote this happy truth too - the One and Only true God of the Bible is “more willing to forgive than we are to sin.”

Two of my sons, Dan and Don, put that to words and music -

“More Willing to Forgive”

“Failed again. Evil overcame the good.

Temptation came, and I fell down,

When I should have stood.

Praying again. “Jesus forgive my sin.

Create in me a heart that’s clean,

Make my spirit strong within.”

Clean again. Like so many times before.

God will never stop forgiving me,

His mercy lasts forevermore.

Wondering why. Sometimes I close my mind,

Keep going on when He says “Stop” -

Becoming temporarily blind.

Wondering why. Sometimes I sin with ease.

But He so easily forgives

When I confess it on my knees.

Wondering why. For me He died, and now He lives,

Why He saved a sinner such as I,

Why He so willingly forgives.”

When temptation comes, sometimes it’s easy to give in.

But He’s more willing to forgive than I am to sin.

Forgiveness is God’s infinite, eternal rich grace-blessing!
Forgiveness is God’s sweet release, relief - now and forever!
Forgiveness is God's happy Good News - to shout out loud -
saying - any sinner on topside of this sad, mad, bad news planet
- can be clean - right with God - instantly and forever - in Jesus.

Paul wrote God’s pardon promise - in Ephesians 2:1-9 -

*God made us **accepted** in the **Beloved One** (Jesus) . . . in whom we have redemption thru **His** blood, even the **forgiveness of sins**. For by grace you are saved, thru faith, and that not of yourselves, it (salvation) is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

All the World is Guilty before God

Now we know - that whatever (God's) Law says - it says - that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world become guilty before God . . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:19-23).

God gave His holy Laws to spell out His perfect standard of right and wrong, good and evil, truth and error. When we live by His Ten Commandments all is well. When we ignore or break God's Laws - we sin against God - and others. And we are sin-guilty - with a guilty conscience.

Today - as in every generation - God's Laws - His standards and values - are broken. So, the sin-guilty conscience is epidemic.

Big bucks are being made by psycho-counselors, by silly psychics, by religious charlatans and confessionals. Money is made in mind-numbing drugs peddled by dealers and shrinks alike - it's a billion-dollar business - all to try quieting rebel guilty consciences, troubled by unconfessed sins.

Jesus the Son of God - the Great High Priest and Savior -

"is touched with the feeling of our weaknesses . . . He was in all points tempted, tested, as we are - yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Jesus bids us all to call on Him - come to His throne of grace - for mercy and grace to help in time of need.

Mark it clearly! Anxiety, fear, depression, stress - are all dark inner troubles that deepen daily in millions - worldwide - caused mostly by a sin-guilty conscience.

Disorders, dysfunctions, so-called mental illness, addictions, much that is misnamed "diseases" - paralyze millions in woeful, whining, self-pitying paranoia. And, the more educated,

sophisticated, opinionated, affluent our society becomes the more anxiety, stress, fears increase - in rich and poor alike.

You see, it's all a guilt problem. Depression, anxieties, fears track back to sin-guilts. If not confronted, confessed to the Lord Jesus - they remain - **un**forgiven - the conscience stays heavy with a guilt-load. Heart trouble and soul-stress go on, grow on day-by-day - both spiritual and physical. If we seek the Savior - we need no shrink. See it again - John records it - Jesus said -

Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God. Believe in Me too (Jesus is God). Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you, not as the world gives give I to you. Let not your heart be troubles, nor let it be afraid (John 14:1,27).

Jesus said it! That settles it! Believe it! Believe in Him!

Sin Brings Guilt and Fear

Adam and Eve first fell into that first fatal sin - first felt guilt and fear - first tried to hide from God. Ever since - we all sin too - feel guilt and fear - run away, hide from God - like Adam -

"I heard Your voice, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself" (Genesis 3:10).

That's guilt and fear talking, folks. Our sins ruin us, defile us, soil and spoil us before God. Our sins expose us, lay us bare-naked before His all-knowing, all-seeing eyes. Our sins bring guilt, blame, shame, fear. We try to hide. We cannot.

God called Adam: *"Where are you?"* Adam's answer was, *I heard Your voice, I was afraid, for I was naked, and I hid myself.*

The Bible says God sees, knows all about us -

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight, for all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to who we must give account (Hebrews 4:13).

Get Real!
We All Sin Against God!

Whoever else we sin against - whoever else we injure or offend - our sins are first - foremost - against the holy Lord God Almighty Himself. Yes they are.

Your sins, my sins, all the world's sins, brought Jesus out of Heaven down to this rebel planet - to die for us - for our sins - so we need not go to Hell - but can go to Heaven.

Now - God's Good News - Gospel - is that - *Christ died for our sins . . . the sins of the whole world . . . and He arose from the dead . . . so that whoever believes (trusts, puts faith) in Him - will not perish (Go to Hell) but have everlasting life (Heaven).*

As we saw, King David sinned big-time. Read his soul-pain -
Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness, according to the multitude of Your tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity (breaking God's Laws), cleanse me from my sin. I confess my transgressions . . . my sin is ever before me.

Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight. Purge (purify) me, and I will be clean, wash me and I will be whiter than snow. Hide Your face from my sins.

Blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God . . . renew a right spirit within me. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, God of my salvation (Psalm 51).

King David's "blood-guilt" was about Bathsheba's husband - Uriah the Hittite. David, to hide his sins, ordered Uriah killed. Even for that God forgave him. He can forgive you too.

But - the ultimate "blood-guilt" is all about Jesus Christ. He died on the Cross - gave His own sinless life to save us sinners from the judgment we all deserve. The "Just One" died for the "unjust", to bring us to God and to

God's Heaven - to save us out of Hell. He shed His own life-blood - for David's sins - for the whole world's sins - for my sins and your sins too. Have you come to Jesus?

Hear David's agony - *Have mercy on me, O God . . . against You, You only have I sinned and done this evil in Your sight.*

But wait! What about David's sins against - Bathsheba, Uriah, against the Israeli people, whom God had called him to lead? Did David's repentant prayer ignore his evils against them? Not at all! David simply saw his sins as God does. Our sins - whomever else we hurt, offend, betray - are first, foremost infinite offenses against the absolute, infinite holiness of God.

Note this! We sinners are so ignorant - so limited in knowledge of God - that none of us can at all grasp the high, pure, perfect holiness of God - nor how infinitely you and I blaspheme and offend Him - in every sin.

Daily - we see clear examples of God's love, grace, mercy, goodness, patience, provision, protection - to us all. Yet, we are grossly ignorant of His righteous justice, His high, holy truth. And - we don't seem at all able to grasp that in God's infinite, absolute holiness - our sins shut us out from Him - as they did Adam and Eve. Only Jesus can forgive, make us right with God.

Again, think of Jacob's son, Joseph. He was a sinner like you and I are. Yet, he said "No" to strong sin-temptation. Joseph was young, strong, virile, handsome. His boss's wife ordered him to do adultery with her. Joe said "No!" He was loyal to his boss. But first he was faithful to God. Hear teen Joseph's power-answer to sex-sins - it's good for all today too:

"How can I do this great wickedness - and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9).

God points to Joseph - calls us to mimic him - say "No" to sin. Because - always - our sins are first - against God Himself.

So - whoever else may love and forgive us - or not - we need God's pardon first - or - we are still in our sin - **un**forgiven.

Jesus Said - Forgive - As He Forgives!

Jesus told Peter, "*forgive - seventy times seven.*" Again, that's 490 times, folks, every day. Jesus forgives infinitely more.

God's pardon is seen all thru His Word - the Bible - telling us He is willing to forgive all our sins - in Messiah Jesus.

Psalm 25 *Look on my affliction . . . my pain . . . forgive all my sins. For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity - it is great. Be merciful to me, O LORD, I cry to You daily. Rejoice the soul of Your servant. To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. LORD, You are good, ready to forgive all who call on You.*

Psalm 32 *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD accounts not iniquity. When I kept silence, my bones grew old thru my roaring all day long. Day and night Your hand was heavy on me; my moisture turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD; and You forgave the iniquity (lawlessness) of my sin.*

Psalm 103 *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, plentiful in mercy. He has not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. As the Heaven is high above earth, so great is His mercy to those who fear Him. As far as east is from west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him.*

He knows our frame, He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass, as a flower of the field, so he flourishes; then the wind passes over, and it is gone, its place knows it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him.

Psalm 130 *Out of the depths I cried to You, O LORD. If You, LORD, mark iniquities, O LORD, who shall stand?*

*But forgiveness is with You, so that You may be feared.
I wait for the LORD, my soul waits . . . in His Word I trust.*

Micah 7:18,19 Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity, passes by transgression? He retains not His anger forever, for He delights in mercy. He will turn again, He will have compassion on us. He will subdue our iniquities. And You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

The One and Only Creator-God Almighty - known, shown - in the Savior Lord Jesus Christ - loves to forgive. Yes He does.

Now - one more time - come back with me to the Gospel according to Matthew - chapter 18:21,22 -

Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him - seven times?" Jesus said, "I say to you - not seven times - but seventy times seven."

"Jesus said to him . . . Jesus gave to Peter - and you and me too - His positive pardon plan - far, far higher than our own. One akin to His own infinite pardon.

And - aren't we glad and grateful for His loving forgiveness?

"I say to you . . . not seven times . . . but seventy times seven."

Jesus never limits His pardon. It is as infinite as He is - as infinite as His love, mercy, grace, goodness. He forgives all who ask Him. His pardon is absolute - full, free, final - to all who trust Him. And the sins He forgives He forgets - forever.

Remember the prodigal son? When we sin - we need to mimic his repentance and return to his father. And - watch his father:

When he was still a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion on him, ran, fell on his neck, kissed him.

And the son said, "Father, I have sinned against Heaven, and in your sight, am no more worthy to be called your son."

But the father said to his servants - "Bring the best robe and put it on him, put a ring on his hand, shoes on his feet. Bring the fatted calf, and kill it, let us eat and be merry. For my son was dead, and is alive again, was lost, and is found."

Blessed true story. Beautiful picture of the loving compassion of God the Father in Heaven to any sinning, straying child.

Face It - You Sin - I Sin - We All Sin

Too often we sin more than seven times a day. Any time, every time we do our will - not His - big or little - it's sin. We need our loving Savior's amazing grace - to forgive and free us. Romans 5:20,21 says it - Paul wrote it for us all -

God's perfect, righteous Laws openly expose our own infinite sin-abounding offense against Him. But - where sin abounded - His grace did - hyper (super) abound.

Psalm 103 - Again *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits - who pardons all your iniquities (breaking God's Laws), who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit (Hades), who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies.*

Isaiah 1:18 *Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD, though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they are crimson red, they shall be as wool.*

"Come to Me - All!"

My dear friend - please know - as I write this - I pray for you - that you will come with your sin-guilt - to Jesus Christ. He is the One and Only Savior - He calls you too - Matthew 11:28 -

"Come to Me all who labor . . . heavy laden.

I will rest you.

Yoke to Me, Learn from Me, you will find soul-rest.

For My yoke is easy, My burden is light."

Simply say to Him: “Lord Jesus, I trust in You to save me.”

Jesus will save you - instantly and forever - from sin and eternal death and Hell - save you for Heaven. Jesus will forgive you, give you His eternal life, make you God's new-born child, take away your sins, and guilt, and fear, anxiety, stress, depression. And you will be right with Him. Yes you will. Believe it.

And - when you sin again - repent - confess it to Jesus. Never give up! Never! Never! Never! August Apostle John said it -

The blood of Jesus Christ God's Son - keeps on cleansing us from all sin. If we confess our sins He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (see I John 1:7-10; 2:1,2).

Some folk say John called lost people to confess their sins - in order to be saved. Wrong! For two important reasons:

One - Jesus never called lost sinners to confess sin - or do any other “works” to be saved. Salvation is His grace-Gift - received by faith alone - not by confessing sins!

Two - when John spoke of unsaved people, he always said “*they, them.*” But - in I John 1:9 - John included himself -

*If **we** (John too) confess **our** sins (John too) He is faithful and righteous to forgive **us our** sins (John too), and to cleanse **us** (John too) from all unrighteousness.*

Five times in that one verse John says: “*we, our, us, our, us.*” He is talking to believers - like him. In his short letter of five brief chapters - 213 times John says: “*we, us, our.*” And - 20 times he uses family terms: “*fathers, children, brothers, beloved.*” And - 52 times - he speaks of God's family love. He is talking to Christians - not to the unsaved - at all.

And - know this - if we Christians do not confess our sins to God - we lose God's fresh daily cleansing, block His blessings.

Salvation is by Faith Alone

Mark it out. Make no mistake. God asks nothing at all from any rebel lost sinner - but simple, repentant trust in Jesus.

God never even names an - amount of faith - it takes to save any sinner. Not a ton, pound, ounce, gram, not a “mustard seed “ of faith. Just faith. Simple trust. The Bible says - Faith in Jesus - plus Zero - is all Jesus will accept - to save us - instantly and forever!

Forgiven! What Joy!

Forgiving sins is God’s Good News of great joy - the Savior! Jesus came to earth by virgin birth - to die for our sins. And - because He is God - Jesus arose from the dead - triumphant over sin, death, Hell! He ascended back to Heaven. From there He is saving all sinners on earth who will simply trust in Him.

And He promised - *“I will come again!”* Count on it! So - now - you too - simply say to Him, “Lord Jesus, I trust in You.”

Choose Jesus

You can ignore Jesus. It’s your choice. But count the cost. All who ignore the Lord Jesus choose to stay in their sins - unforgiven. Religion or “good works” saves no one from Hell. Jesus said it. He is dogmatic, dramatic, emphatic - John 14:6 -
*“I AM the Way, the Truth, the Life -
no one comes to the Father (in Heaven) but thru Me!”*

Peter said it too - the One and Only Savior is Jesus Christ -
*Neither is there salvation in any other,
for there is no other name under Heaven given among men
whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).*

Question

Do you believe (trust, have faith) in Jesus? He calls you too -

*“Come to Me all who labor...heavy-laden...
I will rest you.”*

What's Wrong? Be Right!

Whatever your sins - you too can be right with God - saved!
We all are sinners, all labor under a heavy load of sin-guilt -
unless - until - we come to Jesus Christ. He alone forgives sins.

He loves you - even if you are dead in sins - and dead to God.
He will forgive and free you from all your sins - and sin-guilt -
if you simply say to Him - in truth -

“Lord Jesus - I trust in You.”

Jesus said it to you too:

*“Whoever believes in Me has everlasting life.”
John 6:47*

If I can help you know the loving Lord Jesus - I'm here for you.

Write me -

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