

SHELTER IN GRACE



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Week 2 – FORGIVENESS

Introduction:

Key Scripture: 1 John 2:12

Matthew 6:15; 2 Corinthians 3:7; Galatians 4:24; Romans 3:2; Romans 10:4

UNCONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS?

What does the Bible say...

PRE-CROSS: NO
 Leviticus 4-5, 19:20-22
 Numbers 15:22-28
 Deuteronomy 29:19-20
 2 Chronicles 7:14
 Matthew 6:14-15, 18:35
 Mark 11:25-26



POST-CROSS: YES
 Luke 24:46-47
 Acts 5:31, 13:38, 26:18
 Romans 4:7
 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
 Ephesians 4:32
 Colossians 2:13, 3:13
 Hebrews 8:12, 9:26
 1 John 2:2

Acts 26:18

Celebrating the Unconditional Forgiveness of God:

1. Forgiveness isn't something God _____, it's something He's _____.
Luke 24:46-47; Matthew 26:28
2. Forgiveness isn't a reward based on our _____; it's a free gift based on His _____.
Hebrews 9:26; Acts 13:38
3. We don't _____ for forgiveness, we _____ and say, "Thank you, Jesus!"
1 John 2:2; Psalm 30:5; Romans 4:7-8

Struggling with Sin?

- THANK God for the finished work of Jesus
- TURN from sin so that it doesn't reign in your life
- TRUST God for wisdom and new ways to think and act

2 Peter 1:9 – A Key to living a Godly Life...

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Since God's forgiveness of believers is already paid for and truly unconditional, it makes sense that Satan would seek to pervert or distort our confidence in that reality. In what ways has God's total forgiveness impacted the way in which you view sin, confess sin, and turn from sin?

Ponderings:

2. The Bible says that "whatever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23). Objectively, there are sins which are always sin and never approved of by God. There are also "grey areas" of Christian freedom as we studied two weekends ago. How does the verse above relate to sin in our lives?
3. What is the central difference between a believer "asking God for forgiveness" versus "thanking God for total forgiveness" during times of confession? Why does the latter reflect a better understanding the biblical reality of total forgiveness under the New Covenant?
4. In the area of sin, confession and forgiveness, in what ways have you seen that you have operated under an Old Covenant mentality in contrast to the New Covenant mentality Jesus has invited you into? Discuss...
5. The Bible says there is a "godly sorrow that brings repentance" to our lives (2 Cor. 7:10). To affirm God's total, unconditional forgiveness does not suggest that we shouldn't feel sorry for sin. The question is related to how we deal with that sorrow. Based on the three main ideas in the weekend message, how does each one impact your approach to confession?
 - Forgiveness isn't something God does, but something He's done
 - Forgiveness not a reward for confession, but a gift based on His crucifixion
 - We don't beat ourselves up, we look up at the cross and say "Thanks"

Promptings:

6. How does the unconditional forgiveness of God empower us with the ability to forgive others? Is there someone in your life who you haven't truly forgiven ("let go") of their sin? Will you ask God to affirm His total forgiveness of you in such a way that your mind will be released to extend that same forgiveness?