

MZRF BIBLE STUDY

June, 2016 - Summer

Forgiveness

But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. (Matt 21:28-31).

Purpose/Objective

Forgiveness, like love, is a very crucial tenet of the Christian faith according to the gospel of our Lord Jesus. To be sure, without forgiveness of our sins, we are eternally separated from the Lord God, our Maker. Forgiveness is an act all of us want to receive but most of us oftentimes hesitate to render it, which is unscriptural. The bible teaches that we cannot receive forgiveness without giving it. Today, many Christians are bound by inability to forgive one another. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to carefully examine and understand the different dimensions of forgiveness, such as the basis, significance and obstacles to forgiveness, etc.

1. What is Forgiveness & Biblical Synonyms of Forgiveness

2. Foundation of Forgiveness

- a. God's divine nature
- b. God's grace
- c. Christ death/Shedding of Blood
- d. Son's power
- e. Man's repentance
- f. Our forgiveness
- g. Faith in Christ

3. Why is Forgiveness Significant

- a. The righteousness of God on display
- b. Authenticates Salvation
- c. Must be taught and preached

4. The Acts and Measures of Forgiveness

- a. The record keeper (Seventy times seven)
- b. Unlimited
- c. As God forgave us
- d. Half-hearted forgiveness
- e. Denied Forgiveness

5. Advantages of Forgiveness

- a. Restoration of fellowship
- b. No root of bitterness
- c. Means of our personal forgiveness
- d. Spiritual purging or cleansing
- e. Acceptance of our tithes and offerings
- f. Living Holy

6. Hindrances to Forgiveness

- a. Pride/Ego (I am not a doormat or a pushover)
- b. Fear
- c. Lack of love
- d. Lack of Compassion/Mercy
- e. Vengeance
- f. Undegenerated Heart

7. How to Overcome Hindrances to Forgiveness

- a. Help yourself (stop dwelling, retelling or replaying the past)
- b. Control your emotions
- c. Be clothed with humility
- d. Follow the Lord's example
- e. Fear God

(Study adopted from Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible – Joshua's)