

# THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS






*The most vital subject for anyone's study.*

**A**S WAS NOTED ABOVE, when one carefully examines all of the world's religions, there are really only two. Though nature and conscience (cf. Lesson 1) tell people that there *is* a God, neither can tell them *how to be saved*. Remember the question the jailer asked Paul in Acts 16: "What must I do to be saved?!" All other religions say you have to **DO** something yourself in order to be saved. Only true Christianity tells us about a God who, in His great love for us, paid our debt of sin by sacrificing His own Son on the cross. It's one or the other - either Jesus did everything necessary for your salvation (real Christianity), or He did not (all other religions).

What is the most precious gift God gives to a person? It is complete forgiveness, for Jesus' sake, of all his sin and guilt. In this lesson we will explore this happy subject on the basis of God's Word.

**ICON KEY**

-  Introduction
-  Important point
-  For further reading

## What God Does with Your Sin

1. Read Isaiah 43:25. *How does God express the idea of forgiveness in this verse?*

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2. Look up Psalm 130:3-4. In verse three, the Psalmist says that *none* of us would be acceptable to God if He held us to account for our sins. *But what does the writer say about God in verse four?*

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3. See Daniel 9:9. *What are two wonderful qualities of our God?*

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## "LEARN FROM ME"

4. Read Acts 13:13-39. The Apostle Paul was preaching to the Jewish people in the city of Antioch about Jesus. From verse 38, ***What was the most important thing for them to know about this man?***

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5. Read Acts 26:1-29, Paul's defence against King Agrippa. As he recounted his conversion from a Christ-hater to a Christian missionary, ***what did he say (v. 18 & 20) God sent Him to bring, even to the Gentiles?***

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6. Look up Ephesians 1:7. Many "religious" people of our day say that in Christ we have a wonderful example of how we should live. No doubt that's true, but ***what is something far more important which we have in Christ?***

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## The Extent of God's Forgiveness

7. Read Psalm 103:3. ***What percentage of our iniquities does God forgive?***

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8. Jeremiah 33:8. In this prophesy of Christ, ***how much of our sin does God promise to pardon?***

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9. Some "Christians" think that, in order to gain salvation, God must do His part and they must do their part. But see John 19:30. ***What did Jesus say on the cross about his work of redeeming us from our sins?***

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10. Read Hebrews 9:11-12. The Jewish priests in the Old Testament would offer blood sacrifices to God over and over, every day. ***But how many times would the sacrifice of Jesus' blood need to be offered?***

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11. Look up Romans 3:21-24. From verse 23, ***how many people need the forgiveness God offers?***

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12. From verse 24, ***HOW does that forgiveness ("justification") come to us?***

## "LEARN FROM ME"

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13. Read Romans 4:5. *What kind of people does God justify?*

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14. Look up II Corinthians 5:21. *HOW RIGHTEOUS ARE WE when we trust in Jesus for forgiveness?*

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15. Check Philippians 3:8-9. If forgiveness doesn't come through keeping the works of the Law, *where does it come from?*

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16. When someone sins against you or me, it is often easier to forgive than to forget. But read Jeremiah 31:33-34, which is a prophesy about God's covenant of grace through His Son. *Here God promises not only to forgive our sins, but what else?*

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17. Have you been haunted by old sins you committed years ago? No need! *What does the Bible promise us in Psalm 103:12?*

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18. Read Hebrews 10:16-17. Perhaps *you* remember the "lawless deeds" that you have done in your past, *but what does this passage say about them?*

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19. Refer again to Romans 4:4-5. An employer pays his employees because they earn it. But according to verse 5, *what does God look for in those whom He declares righteous?*

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20. Read again II Corinthians 5:19-21. All people in the world are sinful, yet this passage says that God was "reconciled to the world." *Who reconciled God and man?*

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## The Impartiality of God's Forgiveness

21. Does God play favorites? Read I John 1:7-9. *According to verse nine, who may receive God's forgiveness?*

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## "LEARN FROM ME"

22. Look up I Peter 1:17-19. Complete this sentence: *"In God's judgment, there is no...*

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23. Read Romans 3:28-30. To be "justified" means to be declared *not guilty* before God. Some say you can be justified by the good deeds which you do. ***But what does this passage say?***

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24. Is the offer of salvation *really* for everybody? ***What does John 3:16 say on this subject?***

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25. Check Romans 2:11. Once again, ***God is never guilty of showing WHAT?***

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## Where is God's Forgiveness Offered to Us?

26. Read II Corinthians 5:19. There is only one way in which a sinful human being can be reconciled to God. ***What is that Way?***

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27: The Apostle Paul had much to be ashamed of, not least that he had started his career as a *persecutor* of those who followed the Gospel! But read Romans 1:16. ***What was Paul moved to say about the Gospel?***

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28. Read Matthew 26:27-28. ***What Sacrament is described here, and what does God offer us through it?***

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29. Read I Peter 3:21. ***What Sacrament is described here, and what does it do for us?***

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## How Can We Be Certain about Forgiveness and Eternal Life?

**"LEARN FROM ME"**

30. The Holy Spirit began the "good work" of faith in your heart. But some Christians worry about whether they will *remain* in the faith until Judgement Day. ***What encouragement does the Bible give us in Philippians 1:6?***

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31. Read II Timothy 1:12. ***Who is the One who keeps us in the faith?***

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32: God cannot lie, and He never breaks His promises. ***What blessed promise does He make to us in Titus 1:1-2?***

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33. In John 8:31-32, Jesus says that we need only do one thing in order to enjoy the freedom of salvation and eternal life. ***What is that one thing?***

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## **Additional Bible Readings**

For more Bible reading on this subject, see Acts chapters 22-28, Romans chapters 1-6, and I Corinthians chapter 15.