

## God's Wonderful Words of Life Series by D. Lavell Lee

### Message Nine

- **Forgiveness, Remission**
- **Matt. 26:27-28, Acts 10:43, Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14, Col. 2:13, Heb. 9:22**

**Mat 26:27-28** And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **Drink ye all of it; 28** For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

**Act 10:43** To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

**Eph 1:7** In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

**Col 1:14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

**Col 2:13** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

**Heb 9:22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

God is so holy, so pure, and man is so sinful, so unclean, so totally defiled with sin. So great is man's sin that Ro. 3:10 states **"There is none righteous, no, not one:"** and Ro. 3:23 declares **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."** So great is God's purity that he cannot look favorably on lost sinners as Habakkuk 1:13 states **"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity."** It would appear that all mankind is doomed and without hope, but thank God, there is hope and forgiveness with God because Psa. 130:4 declares **"But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared."** In fact, read the entire chapter of Psa. 130.

**Psa 130:1-8** <A Song of degrees.> **Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD. 2** Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. **3** If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? **4** But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. **5** I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. **6** My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning. **7** Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. **8** And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Forgiveness, what a wonderful word of truth. True believers are forgiven through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God the Son, in our place and on our behalf. Now, God can and does look upon us with loving favor because we are cleansed and forgiven of our sins. He now sees us in Jesus Christ and will never see us in any other way.

**Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:**

Prayerfully and thankfully study with me now as we look into this wonderful subject of forgiveness. It will be noted in our scripture references that the words “forgiveness and remission” are used interchangeably because both words come from the same Greek word *aphesis*, Strong's 859. We will use the word “forgiveness” for the sake of consistency.

### **FIRST God's meaning of forgiveness and forgiven**

1. Greek, Strong's 859 – *Aphesis*, *af es is* – Freedom, pardon from Strong's 863 – *Aphiemi*, *af ee ay mee* – To send forth, I. e. to send away. Matt. 26:27-28, Acts 10:43, Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14, Heb. 9:22

We understand from the above passages of scripture that when a sinner comes to God for salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in his place and on his behalf, that God lifts up the sin from the sinner and removes it away from him. The sin is separated from the sinner and God sees that person now perfectly clean and spotless in Jesus Christ. Furthermore, when the saved person sins and confesses his sin to God, he is forgiven of his sins.

**1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

The removal of sins from the believer is pictured by the sending away the scapegoat from among the children of Israel in the Levitical sacrifices in the book of Leviticus 16.

**Lev 16:7-10 And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 8 And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. 9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. 10 But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.**

**Lev 16:20-22 And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: 21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: 22 And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.**

The same picture of removal of sins is set forth in Leviticus 14.

**Lev 14:1-7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought unto the priest: 3 And the priest shall go forth out of the camp; and the priest shall look, and, behold, if the plague of leprosy be healed in the leper; 4 Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop: 5 And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water: 6 As for the living bird, he shall take it, and the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of**

**the bird that was killed over the running water: 7 And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field.**

What wonderful peace God gives us by telling us that our sins are removed from us.

**Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,**

2. Greek, Strong's 5483, Charizomia, khar id zom ahee, To grant as a favor.

**Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;**

Of course, we can see from this use of the word, along with the other words, that this means grace forgiveness on the part of God and not earned forgiveness on the part of the sinner.

## **SECOND God's means of forgiveness**

**Lev 4:35 And he shall take away all the fat thereof, as the fat of the lamb is taken away from the sacrifice of the peace offerings; and the priest shall burn them upon the altar, according to the offerings made by fire unto the LORD: and the priest shall make an atonement for his sin that he hath committed, and it shall be forgiven him.**

**Mat 26:26-27 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;**

**Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

**Heb 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**

God's means of forgiveness is always on the basis of man's sin debt having been paid in full by Jesus Christ on the cross. The pattern of the Old Testament offerings follow the example set forth in Lev. 4:35. The exact wording is **“So the priest shall make atonement for his sin that he committed, and it shall be forgiven him.”** Forgiveness is granted by God on the basis of his satisfaction of the debt being paid by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. It is the same in the New Testament. Matt. 26:28 **For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.** The fact that his blood **“is shed”** means that his blood was shed on the cross, thus it refers to his blood being shed on the cross as he died for our sins. Our Heb. 9:22 reference states **“And without shedding of blood there is no remission.”** and the context verse is clearly teaching that forgiveness is granted only on the basis of Jesus Christ having shed his blood unto death on the cross. Note **Heb. 9:28** in the context, **“So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.”** So I restate the truth that the meaning of God's forgiveness is always on the basis that Jesus Christ paid our sin debt when he shed his own blood in death on the cross.

### **THIRD The moment of the teaching of Jesus Christ in Matt. 26:27-28**

The occasion of this passage of scripture was on the evening before the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. He was eating the Passover supper with them. The Passover supper was a remembrance meal reaching back to the evening the children of Israel were delivered from Egyptian bondage.

**Exo 12:1-17 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: 4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.**

**5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: 6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. 7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. 8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. 10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.**

**11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. 13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. 14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.**

**15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. 16 And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. 17 And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.**

In Matt;26, Jesus instructed them “**Drink ye all of it**” which meant that each one of them had to drink from the cup because each person must by faith spiritually receive the salvation that God offers through Jesus Christ. Notice the teaching of Jesus Christ in this respect in John 6:53-63

**Joh 6:53-63 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is**

meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. 58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. 59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. 60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? 61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? 62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

When we come to God, and by faith receive his salvation into our lives, we thereby spiritually receive Jesus Christ into our lives.

**1Jo 5:11-13 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.**

That is what it means to spiritually eat the body of Jesus Christ and spiritually drink his blood.

**FOURTH God's magnanimity in forgiving our sins.**

**Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

**Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;**

**Psa 103:1-4 <A Psalm of David.> Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; 4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;**

God's generosity in forgiving our sins is set forth here in Eph. 1:7. His forgiveness is “**According to the riches of his grace**”. The Greek word for riches is Strong's 4149, ploutos, plou tos and means abundance. God's grace is abounding grace. It is stated in this manner in **Ro. 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.** The greatness of human sin will never out reach the abundance of grace. It is set forth in this manner in **John 1:16 And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.** Here we learn that we receive of all the fullness of God himself. The Greek word for fulness is Strong's 4138, Pleroma, play ro mah, and means what fills. In the context it means we receive from God the contents of God himself Then it says “**Grace for grace**”. We receive of God's grace from his own generosity and not in any way because of our works.

**Eph 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

Also, note that it was while we were still sinners God demonstrated his love, not after we made ourselves good enough, which we could never do.

#### **FIFTH God's magnitude of forgiveness of our sins**

**Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;**

Yes, God's word means what it says. All really does mean all. What a relief it is to know that God has forgiven us of all our sins in all their number and all our sins no matter how great they are.

#### **SIXTH God's motive in forgiving our sins is his glory**

**Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**

**Eph 1:11-14 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**

God does save us for our own good but he does so in a manner in which he alone receives all the glory and praise. It is not God's intent that we take any credit for our salvation.

**1Co 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence**

#### **SEVENTH Man's move toward God's forgiveness**

**Act 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.**

God is so good to us. He has completely provided for our salvation and we don't have earn it but we do have to come to God in simple faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross in payment for our sin debt.

**Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

**Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**

#### **EIGHTH Man's motive in moving toward God's forgiveness**

Man's motive for forgiveness and salvation is God's glory in releasing him from the guilt and penalty of sin's condemnation.

**Joh 3:17 -21 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth**

not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

**2Co 10:17** But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

**Phi 3:7-10** But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

**NINETH** God's mandate for us to forgive others

**Eph 4:32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

1. The nature of God's forgiveness of our sins is grace, in like manner, we should extend grace forgiveness to others.
2. The nurture of our forgiveness comes from the very disposition of our hearts that have been so drastically changed by God the Holy Spirit that we now have kind hearts that are now so sensitive and gracious toward others of God's family and indeed, even those outside of God's family. Kind is Strong's 5543, chrestos, kraase tos, and means better, easy, good, gracious. Tenderhearted is Strong's 2155, eusplagehnow, yoo splangkh now, and means well compassioned, sympathetic.

What a blessing it is to know we have been completely forgiven of our sins by our kind God who loves us so much that he placed our sins on Jesus Christ who paid our sin debt in full on the cross and now we are forgiven. What a blessing to know that Jesus Christ, God the Son, loves us so much that he willingly bore the entire burden of our sins on the cross and suffered for our sins in his own body on that cross, thereby satisfying God's just wrath against our sins. Thank you Lord Jesus! We love you and praise you and it is our privilege to serve you while we are on this earth and it will be our joy to be with you eternally and serve you forever.

Sinner, not matter how great your sins are, God will forgive you through Jesus Christ if you will come to him in humble repentance and faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on your behalf. Will you say, yes Lord, and come to him right this moment?

**Rom 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.