

DIVINE FORGIVENESS

Text: Psalm 103:8-13

INTRODUCTION: "As far as the east is from the west." Why did not God say, "As far as the North is from the South?" You can start walking north and if you walk far enough you will be walking south. North and south meet. But if you starting walking east, you can walk infinitely and you will never be walking west. North and south meet, but east and west never meet. And when God pardons a man of his sins, he will never meet those sins again. He will never meet them again in his conscience--he will never meet them again at the judgment. He will stand before God and God will say, "I have nothing against you." A lost man will meet his sins again and again--and he will meet them at the judgment. He may for get about them, he may bury them in the graveyard of his memory and the cemetery of his mind, but when judgment comes they will be resurrected and face him like a skelton out of the closet and point their condeming finger at him. *woman: I never thought I would forgive me - but He did.*

If this is the distance of its removal you can be sure that there is no danger of its ever being brought back again. When sin is forgiven the guilt of it can no more return than east can become west. They cannot affect us anymore. As long as the sun rises in the east and sets in the west you may be assured of your complete forgiveness. *Psychiatrists + Guilt Complex*

"They are removed from us." Who are those who are able to say this--those who are pardoned, freed from their sin? Describe them. They are:

I. PAINFULLY CONSCIOUS THAT THEY ARE SINFUL

Vs. 10-"Our sins," "our iniquities", vs. 12- "our transgressions."

The Psalmist is spellbound by the greatness of God's mercy. What makes God's grace so great is the immensity of our own sins. If we had no sins there would be no need of mercy, no cross. God paints the picture of His love against the black background of our sins.

1. We are transgressors: Rebellion against a superior; describes sin as a personal, voluntary act.

① I John 3:42 "Sin is the transgression of the law." Sin is lawlessness, the spirit of lawlessness. There is a difference between a man once breaking a law, and a man having the very spirit of lawlessness, no regard for the law, delighting in violating it. This is what we have, the spirit of lawlessness.

I said, "Thou shalt not" man said, "I will"

III. FULLY RECEIVED THE WRATH OF GOD.

(2) Sin always affects someone and hurts someone--some relationship. *Psy. & Guilt Complex*

(3) God sees sin through the eyes of a judge--as guilt.

this is why He must judge it.

2. This sinfulness develops into a spirit of arrogance-- opposite of fear for God. A man who habitually breaks the law develops an arrogant attitude towards the law and has no fear nor reverence for it. *arrogance*

(1) There is one sin that locks a man up in all his other sins and fastens him more tightly in his lostness--the sin of self-righteousness. It is this sin that keeps a man from confessing his other sins.

(2) The very act of denying sin is a sin.

II. FEARFULLY AWARE THAT GOD IS ANGRY WITH SIN

V9 implies that God is angry with the sinner. This is a forgotten note in preaching but not in the Bible. *"no fear of"*

Billy Graham's article.

Desecrated His Name, Profane His Name, Reject His Son, etc

God has a legitimate cause for being angry with men. This is God's attitude towards sin. His wrath is freely directed against sin--especially PRESUMPTUOUS sins (Man thinks he can get by with it.)

Song-"He" - I will not always say, I forgive - unless there is repentance

1. God's wrath can be manifested at all times.

(1) The Divine anger can be kindled against an individual. Pharaoh.

(2) The Divine anger can be kindled against His own people. Israel and the golden calf.

(3) He pours his wrath out upon the nations. Psa. 79:6

2. God's anger will be manifested at the last Day.

Although God's wrath comes at all times, there is a special day reserved for the outpouring of the wrath of God.

Mercy does not have the last word to the lost. God's last word is of condemnation and destruction of sin and stubborn sinners.

III. FULLY RECEIVED THE MERCY OF GOD.

~~ago.~~ Without this mercy we would have been consigned to hell long ago. We have never suffered as we deserve to suffer.

1. God is rich in mercy: Sin may drown human love, but not God's love. The mountain of God's mercy rises above the floods of sin. Salvation flows from no man-made resevoir, but from the heart of God. "Where sin did abound, grace did much more abound."

2. God is slow to anger: Sodom and Gommorrah; Moses' prayer for the people.

3. God does not cherish in his heart revenge. Man is wronged by another--he cherishes in his heart desire for retaliation--watches for opportunity to strike back--not so God. "Father forgive them."

4. God's love is like Himself--Infinite. No man has ever reached the farthest star and no man can ever measure the mercy of God.

5. Why is it that God has not dealt with us according to our sins? Do not think that God overlooks sin. It is because He has dealt with another according to our sins. Jesus took our sins upon Himself. God rewarded Jesus according to our sins and awarded us according to His merit.