

What We Believe Series Part 11: The Forgiveness of Sins

Genesis 12:1-9 & Romans 4:1-8 (NASB)

1. Our _____ do not justify us before God (Romans 4:1-2).

Justified-shown as just (righteous) or innocent (of sin or breaking the law). -Strong's Concordance

- God does not _____ sin just because we've done good things or obeyed in some areas.
- See Romans 3

2. God forgives us and declares us righteous because we _____ him (Romans 4:3).

Believe- to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), that is, credit; by implication to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ) -Strong's Concordance

Acts 26:17-18 NASB ¹⁷*rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you,* ¹⁸*to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.*

3. If we work for God but do not have faith in him, we are only giving God what we _____ him (Romans 4:4-6).

- Scripture treats our works as the _____ of God's gift in terms of forgiveness.

Romans 6:23 (NASB) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

“Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning.”

-Dallas Willard, The Great Omission

“Christians therefore, should work hard, strive, and toil—but we do so not *for* grace but *from* grace. Because of the gospel we are motivated not by guilt but by gratitude.”

- Jeremy Treat pastor at Reality LA & Biola University professor

- We serve God because we are forgiven, not _____ forgiven.
- Righteous works are the result of _____, the Holy Spirit working in us; not us working for him.

Philippians 2:12-13 (NASB) ¹²*So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

4. Though we have sinned, we are _____ (forgiven) when we place our faith in God (Romans 4:7-8).

- See Jeremiah 31:31-34

Final Admonitions

Apart from receiving God's forgiveness our souls are lost/condemned (See Mark 8:34b-37).

1. Have you received the forgiveness that God, through Jesus Christ has provided for you?
2. Have you forgiven yourself for your own shortcomings and dedicated your life fully to loving and obeying God through the power of the Holy Spirit?

Have you told others what God through Jesus Christ has provided for them? Have you modeled what forgiveness looks like, by how you approach God, and how you forgive others?