

1. Forgiveness is the key benefit mentioned in the presentation of the gospel in the book of Acts.
 - a. Examples
 - i. Acts 5:31 give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins
 - ii. Acts 13:38 through this man preached forgiveness of sins
 - iii. Acts 26:18 open eyes they they may receive forgiveness of sins
 - iv. Acts 2:38 be baptized for the remission of sins
 - v. Acts 10:43 To Him all the prophets give witness that through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.
2. Throughout the O.T. God promised his people that there would be forgiveness.
 - a. Come now let us reason Isaiah 1:18
Is 43:25 I, *even I, am* he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.
 - b. Remove as far as east and west psalm 103:12
 - c. Buried in depths of the sea. Micah 7:19
3. Why is it so little appreciated? In fact in our own presentations we usually mention eternal life and heaven much more than we mention forgiveness. Why aren't we more amazed by forgiveness?
4. Answer I think is that we don't realize the depth of our sin. We treat it lightly: Jer 6:14 They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly saying peace, peace when there is no peace.
Lev 13:13 if leprosy has covered all his body, he shall pronounce him clean.
5. The Bible doesn't describe it lightly. The Bible describes it in strong terms. I want us to look at this this evening so that our appreciation of forgiveness might grow.
 - a. Look at the description in Isaiah 1:4-6
 - b. Ralph Venning in 1669 The Plague of Plagues – In it he writes about all of the ways that sin is against us and is our enemy in virtually every area of life. In one section he brings out a biblical picture of sin based on some parts of the body.
 - c. Mouth full of cursing Romans 3:13 - 15
 - d. Eyes full of adultery 2 Peter 2:14
 - e. Eye-lids haughty and teeth swords Prov 30:13, 14
 - f. Ears dull of hearing Heb 5:11
 - g. Ears deaf as adder Psalm 58:4
 - h. Forehead impudent brow brass Isaiah 48:4
 - i. Both hands work evil Micah 7:3
 - j. Idol is their belly Phil 3:19
 - k. Inwardly wickedness, flattering tongue Psalm 5:9 (In James tongue set on fire by hell)
 - l. Heart is deceitful Jeremiah 17:9
6. Additional texts
 - a. None righteous, no not one Romans 3:10
 - b. All have sinned and fall short Romans 3:23
 - i. Not only before salvation but after
7. Other thoughts

- a. Sin is not only commission but omission
 - b. Think about what we are told to do –
 - i. Pray without ceasing
 - ii. Rejoice ever more
 - iii. In everything give thanks
 - iv. Love neighbor to the same degree we love our self
 - 1. Were you ever not long suffering
 - 2. Did you ever vaunt yourself?
 - 3. Did you ever seek your own interests?
 - 4. Did you ever take account of wrongs?
 - v. What else are we to do? Love God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength
 - vi. Pray for those in authority
 - vii. If one keep whole law and offend in one point he is guilty of all James 2:10
 - c. How dare we look at someone else and say they have failed, they are sinners as though we are not even in our saved state!
 - i. Romans 2:1 You who judge do the same thing.
8. Besides not realizing the depth of our sin, we tend not to believe the punishment. Do we actually realize that the penalty for all of this is damnation! God is angry with the wicked every day. (Ps 7:11) Even the plowing of the wicked is sin. (Prov 21:4)
- a. Romans 1:28 Lists the sins and then says worthy of death.
 - b. The wrath of god abideth on the one who is not in Christ John 3:36
 - c. He who believeth not is condemned already. John 3:18
9. I have purposely focused on this to help us get a sense of our sinfulness – not so that we would feel terrible but so that we would be grateful for so great salvation.
- a. Luke 7:36 ff He who has been forgiven much loves much
10. The Amazing Gift -- Forgiveness
- a. God offers forgiveness from all of this! ... and through what means? By believing in Christ. Acts 10:43 Whoever believeth in him receives remission of sins!
 - b. John 3:18 He who believes in Him is not condemned.
 - c. Isaiah 44:22 Blotted out like a thick cloud