

“Forgiveness”
Temptation
Matthew 6:14-15

May 24, 2020

Forgiveness and Repentance (Luke 17:1-4; Acts 8:22)

Intro.:

Forgiveness is essential

When we strive against all thoughts of revenge; when we will not do our enemies mischief, but wish well to them, grieve at their calamities, pray for them, seek reconciliation with them, and show ourselves ready on all occasions to relieve them.
(Thomas Watson, English Puritan preacher, 1600's, *Body of Divinity*, p. 581)

- resisting revenge (Romans 12:19)
- not returning evil for evil (1 Thessalonians 5:15-22)
- wishing them well (Luke 6:28)
- grieving at their calamities (Proverbs 24:17)
- praying for their welfare (Matthew 5:44)
- seeking reconciliation (Romans 12:18)
- coming to their aid in distress (Exodus 23:4)

A forgiving heart

(Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:8-15; Matthew 18:32-35 ;
Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 1:13-14)

A lack of forgiveness

(Genesis 1:27; Matthew 5:22; Matthew 18:21-22; Mark
11:25; Ephesians 4:29-32; 1 Thessalonians 5:15-22)

Issue of sin and forgiveness

(Ephesians 4:26-27; Psalm 99:8; Hebrews 12:6, 10b; 1
Samuel; Numbers 14)

“The difference is that when a person who wronged us does not repent with contrition and confession and conversion (turning from sin to righteousness), he cuts off the full work of forgiveness. We can still lay down our ill will; we can hand over our anger to God; we can seek to do him good; but we cannot carry through reconciliation or intimacy.” - John Piper

“We are not bound to trust an enemy; but we are bound to forgive him.” (Body of Divinity, Thomas Watson, p. 581)

Jesus' heart

Supernatural (Luke 23:34 ; 1 Peter 2:23)

Christlike (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 5:1-2)

Considerate of others (Philippians 2:3-5)

Love your enemies (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27-28)

Offering - *“Praise Him, Praise Him”*

How can we withhold forgiveness when we have been forgiven such a huge debt? We have been pardoned from the death penalty by the blood of Jesus.

Your Action Point(s): _____

Next week: **Christ's return**