

Forgiveness Is a Special Spiritual Blessing
(Ephesians 1:3-7)

Introduction:

1. Some very good news is presented in vs.3 -- God has blessed His people with "*all spiritual blessings*" in His Son.
2. In the verses that follow, many of these blessings are revealed.
3. Today we are concentrating on one of the blessings mentioned in vs.7 -- "*the forgiveness of sins.*"
4. In our lesson we are studying passages which show that "forgiveness is a special spiritual blessing."
5. The first step we need to take is to point out how . . .

Discussion:

- I. MAN NEEDS FORGIVENESS
 - A. We need forgiveness because:
 1. of sin (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8, 10)
 2. of the consequences of sin.
 - a. Sin causes separation from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
 - b. The penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23).
 - B. David emphasized our need for forgiveness by describing himself before and after he was forgiven (Psalm 32:1-5).
 1. He first showed in vs.1-2 how a forgiven person is "blessed."
 2. He showed in vs.3-4 that he had not always enjoyed this blessing.
 3. He showed in vs.5 how he received God's forgiveness.
 - C. The next step we need to take is to point out how . . .
- II. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST MAKES FORGIVENESS POSSIBLE
 - A. This was prophesied in Isaiah 53:4-6, 11-12.
 - B. When Jesus gave instructions for eating His Supper, He said that He shed His blood "*for the remission [removal, forgiveness] of sins*" (Matthew 26:27-28).
 - C. We receive "*the remission of sins*" when we repent and are baptized in the Lord's name (Acts 2:38; Colossians 2:12-13).
 - D. We learn from 1 John 1:7, 9 that the Lord's blood continues to provide forgiveness for His followers.
 - E. The last point we need to make is that . . .
- III. THE LORD'S FORGIVENESS IS SO SPECIAL THAT IT SHOULD MOTIVATE A PERSON TO SERVE HIM
 - A. David illustrated this principle (Psalm 51:9-13).
 - B. The woman described as a sinner in Luke 7:36-50 showed her love to Jesus because He forgave her of many sins.

Conclusion:

1. The Scriptures show very clearly that "forgiveness is a special spiritual blessing."
2. The Lord extends His great invitation to everyone to come to Him to receive forgiveness (Matthew 11:28-30).