

**Sermon Quotes**  
**February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**Living In The Good Of The Gospel**  
**Gospel Implications- Forgiving As God Forgave You**

The power of the Gospel is the only source for us to find sufficient motivation and ability to forgive the way we are commanded

God forgives the Christian in a judicial sense whether he confesses his sin or not. Judicial forgiveness occurs when you are saved and God forgives all your sins...past, present, and future. But then, there is a daily relational kind of forgiveness, which opens up the loving fellowship and communion you desire to experience with God. Whereas the judicial kind of forgiveness is a once-for-all positional act of God, the relational forgiveness is that daily cleansing from God that just keeps the channel open.

—John MacArthur

If we fall into a pathway of un-forgiveness and become hardened in it and cherish it as a way of life we are going to go to Hell. No matter what kind of decisions we've made or if we have gone to church our whole lives. Not that you can earn heaven by forgiving others; not that you cannot merit forgiveness by being a forgiving person. But rather...if we don't have a forgiving spirit to those who have wronged us we are bearing infallible witness that we have not lived upon, cherished, been rooted in and been swallowed up by the ten million dollar forgiveness of God. If we know and trust him we will not be able to receive His ten million dollar forgiveness and refuse to extend it to a ten dollar debt.

—John Piper

He forgave the most great and grievous offenses. It was a horrible thing that when the Lord Jesus came into the world, moved by pure love, He was not welcomed, but Herod sought to slay the young Child. When He appeared publicly among men, the Jews took up stones to stone Him. His miracles were ascribed to the devil and His holy and unspotted Character was *traded* (mocked) by His being called a drunk. You know with what scornful cruelty they treated Him in the hour of His passion. What could the malice of Hell have invented more contemptuous and cruel than that which men used towards the Well-Beloved? And we, also, have crucified Him, for our sins were laid upon Him by Jehovah. We, also, must confess, "He was despised and we esteemed Him not." We can never remember this without deep emotions of regret. We used no other friend so evilly. We crucified Him and slew Him, as far as we were able to do it, by our rejection of His love. And yet He has forgiven us! He is ready to forgive all such as seek His face. Oh, the splendor of that love which blots out sins like ours! What a flood of Grace is this which rises above the tops of the mountains of our sins and covers them forever!

—C.H. Spurgeon

Greatly do I admire the very gracious way in which forgiveness is given by the Savior. Some people offer forgiveness in such an ungracious way. They make it appear that they are coming down from such awful heights when they forgive a fellow mortal. In great dignity they march down in state from their own splendid innocence to the poor Brother who has done them a wrong—as good as saying, "I will condescend to do this, though it is an awful stoop for such an angelic being as I am." You never feel that about

the Christ, for He places His pardon down so low that He seems to say, "Receive My mercy, I beg you to receive it." Christ condescends more than all the condescension's of all men put together and so it should be with us, "for worms were never raised so high above their meanest fellow worms."

—C.H. Spurgeon

O Sinner, before you think of Christ, He has thoughts of love towards you! He says, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, your transgressions, and, as a cloud, your sins: return unto Me; for I have redeemed you." The forgiveness is *first* and the returning to the Lord is urged as a *consequence* of that forgiveness! Pardon is not first in the matter of our personal experience, but it is first as matter of fact with God. Oh! The mercy of the Lord Christ, that before we know our sin, He has made atonement for it by His own precious blood!

—C.H. Spurgeon

"Although we are completely forgiven by God without doing anything to deserve it, we often fail to give the same grace to those who need our forgiveness. We haven't earned our forgiveness, but we sure want our spouse to earn his or hers. Related obstacles to forgiveness may include a desire to make our spouse suffer for his or her offenses, or an unspoken expectation that he or she must somehow guarantee to never commit that offense again."

—Ken Sande

"Forgiveness is not a feeling; it's not like love, hate, jealousy, envy or lust. In fact, we should set forgiveness apart from our feelings altogether deciding to forgive can eventually change our feelings tremendously, but that comes later, after we've made the conscious decision to forgive. Forgiveness is an act of the will, a decision not to think or talk about what someone has done. It is an active process involving a conscious choice and a deliberate course of action. It is the canceling of a debt that someone has incurred because of sinful behavior or words."

—Ken Sande

"When we remember our position before God, when we adopt an attitude of continual repentance and thankfulness for our salvation, God will help us, through the work of His Spirit, to improve our ability to forgive others. When we come daily before our Lord and repent of our sins, seeking God's forgiveness and the Holy Spirit's strength to improve our lives, our forgiveness of others will grow as well; it will become more sincere and more lasting the more we seek God's grace and guidance."

—Ken Sande