

FORGIVEN AND FREE

May 17, 2015 Various Texts by Bob Branch
Exploring the Foundations of Our Faith: Part 6

MAIN IDEA: Examine God's forgiveness in order to more fully experience God and his forgiveness. Our sin is much worse than we ever thought, which makes **God's provision of forgiveness** all the more transforming, when we turn to him, trust him and **receive it**.

1. Our SIN is much worse than we ever thought...

What is sin?

"When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned." **Romans 5:12** NLT

"Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death." **James 1:14-15** NLT

- **Lawlessness** toward God & his boundaries
- **Rebellion** against God's Lordship
- **Missing** the mark of what God designed
- **Guilty** before God the judge
- **Unclean** before God's holiness and perfection

"Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us..." **Anglican Prayer**

2. Which makes GOD'S PROVISION OF FORGIVENESS all the more transforming...

God offers to forgive our sins, but it was costly!

How? Trading places

"God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." **2 Corinthians 5:21** NLT

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree (cross)" **1 Peter 2:24**

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." **1 Peter 3:18** (1 Jn. 4:10; 1 Cor. 15:3; Heb. 9:22)

3. When we TURN to him, TRUST him and RECEIVE it.

- Debts are cancelled (Mt. 18:23-27; Col. 2:14)
- Acquitted of charges/Pardoned (Justified; Romans 3:22-24)
- Stains washed away (Rom. 3:25; Is. 1:18)
- Freed from prison/released (Eph. 1:7; 1 Tim 2:5-6; Rom. 3:24)

Impact 1: When you come to Christ you're cleansed (Acts 10:43)

Impact 2: In the daily, experiential sense

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." **1 John 1:9**