

REDEMPTION FORGIVENESS

**HE HAS DELIVERED US FROM THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS AND TRANSFERRED US TO THE KINGDOM OF HIS BELOVED SON, IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
- COLOSSIANS 1:13-14**

Well, then, what is forgiveness? Thinking about the matter, I remembered that Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:32 to “forgive one another just as God, for Christ’s sake, has forgiven” us. “Among other things,” I reasoned, “that means our forgiveness is to be modeled after God’s. In order to find out what forgiveness is I must study God’s forgiveness.” At last I have found the key to unlock the door to the meaning of forgiveness. Obviously, when God forgives, He does not simply sit in the heavens and emot. So forgiveness isn’t a feeling. If it were, we would never know that we have been forgiven. No, when God forgives, He goes on record. He says so. He declares, “I will not remember your sins” (Isa 43:25; see also Jer. 31:34). Isn’t that wonderful? When He forgives, God lets us know that He will no longer hold our sins against us. If forgiveness were merely an emotional experience, we would not know that we were forgiven. But praise God, we do, because forgiveness is a process at the end of which God declares that the matter of sin has been dealt with once and for all. Now, What is that declaration? What does God do when He goes on record saying that our sins are forgiven? God makes a promise. Forgiveness is not a feeling; forgiveness is a promise! Never forget that fact. It is one of the most stupendous facts of all time. When our God forgives us, He promises that He will not remember our sins against us anymore.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER



It was a rescue mission. That's what the term 'delivered' in Colossians 1:13 means—to rescue. Rescued from one kingdom and brought to another: a change of locations, a change of scenery, an entirely new life. How was this possible? How can a Holy God bring evil people from an evil kingdom into His righteous kingdom? By forgiving their sins. Redeemed by the blood of Christ. This is not a fleeting emotion about how we feel; this is a decisive declaration by the Creator of the universe. We have been redeemed. We are forgiven.

What do you think the difference is between “redemption” and “forgiveness”

Does the fact that you are forgiven make any difference in your life? How should understanding that we are forgiven change the way we live?

What is the danger of leaning into a mentality of “feeling forgiven”? Why is it so important that we understand forgiveness is God's declaration about who we are?

How should God's act of forgiveness shape the way we approach forgiving others?

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Martin Luther was once asked whether he felt his sins were forgiven. He answered, “No, I don't feel they are forgiven; I know they are because God says so in His Word.”

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

**VERSES FOR THE
WEEK**

EPHESIANS 1:7

HEBREWS 9:11-14

ISAIAH 43:25

LUKE 17:3-4

