

The Basis for Forgiveness

by Oswald Chambers

The basis for God's forgiveness is the Cross of Christ, where He bore the cost of our sin and made forgiveness possible.

Scripture: John 17:4, Galatians 3:13, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:17, Hebrews 9:22, 1 Peter 2:24

Topics: "Divine Forgiveness", "The Atonement"

Description

Oswald Chambers emphasizes that the forgiveness of sins is not based on God's kindness alone, but on the sacrificial death of Jesus on the Cross. He warns against viewing God's forgiveness lightly, as it came at a great cost and should never be separated from the Atonement. Chambers stresses that God's forgiveness is a divine miracle of grace, only made possible through the supernatural realm of the Cross. He highlights that sanctification, though important, pales in comparison to the profound gratitude we should have for God's forgiveness of our sins, a truth that Paul never strayed from.

Transcript

"In whom we have . . . the forgiveness of sins." Eph. 1:7.

"Beware of the pleasant view of the Fatherhood of God--God is so kind and loving that of course He will forgive us. That sentiment has no place whatever in the New Testament. "The only ground on which God can forgive us is the tremendous tragedy of the Cross of Christ; to put forgiveness on any other ground is unconscious blasphemy.

"The only ground on which God can forgive sin and reinstate us in His favour is through the Cross of Christ, and in no other way. Forgiveness, which is so easy for us to accept, cost the agony of Calvary. It is possible to take the forgiveness of sin, the gift of the Holy Ghost, and our sanctification with the simplicity of faith, and to forget at what enormous cost to God it was all made ours.

"Forgiveness is the divine miracle of grace; it cost God the Cross of Jesus Christ before He could forgive sin and remain a holy God. Never accept a view of the Fatherhood of God if it blots out the Atonement.

"The revelation of God is that He cannot forgive; He would contradict His nature if He did. The only way we can be forgiven is by being brought back to God by the Atonement. God's forgiveness is only natural in the super-natural domain.

"Compared with the miracle of the forgiveness of sin, the experience of sanctification is slight. Sanctification is simply the marvelous expression of the forgiveness of sins in a human life, but the thing that awakens the deepest well of gratitude in a human being is that God has forgiven sin.

"Paul never got away from this. When once you realize all that it cost God to forgive you, you will be held as in a vice, constrained by the love of God."

(November 20)

"I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do. " John 17:4

"There is no room for looking on Jesus Christ as a martyr; His death was not something that happened to Him which might have been prevented. His death was the very reason why He came.

Never build your preaching of forgiveness on the fact that God is our Father and He will forgive us because He loves us. It is untrue to Jesus Christ's revelation of God; it makes the Cross unnecessary, and the Redemption "much ado about nothing." If God does forgive sin, it is because of the death of Christ. God could forgive men in no other way than by the death of His Son, and Jesus is exalted to be Saviour because of His death. "We see Jesus . . . because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour." The greatest note of triumph that ever sounded in the ears of a startled universe was that sounded on the Cross of Christ--"It is finished." That is the last word in the Redemption of man.

Anything that belittles or obliterates the holiness of God by a false view of the love of God, is untrue to the revelation of God given by Jesus Christ. Never allow the thought that Jesus Christ stands with us against God out of pity and compassion; that He became a curse for us out of sympathy with us. Jesus Christ became a curse for us by the Divine decree. Our portion of realizing the terrific meaning of the curse is conviction of sin, the gift of shame and penitence is given us; this is the great mercy of God. Jesus Christ hates the wrong in man, and Calvary is the estimate of His hatred.

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