

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

January 26, 2020

*Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!*

---

---

Prelude

Worship Theme

Christ is Beautiful

Psalm 45:1-2: "My heart overflows with a good theme; I address my verses to the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. Thou art fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Thy lips; therefore God has blessed Thee forever."

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross**

Ps. 47:1

+We Adore Him

Insert, "My Heart Is Filled With Thankfulness"

We Confess Our Sin

Our Father, we are sinful and You are holy. We recognize that we have heard in Your Law difficult words, knowing how often we have offended You in thought, word and deed, not only by obvious violations, but by failing to conform to its perfect commands, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. There is nothing in us that gives us reason for hope, for where we thought we were well, we are sick in soul. Where we thought we were holy, we are in truth unholy and ungrateful. Our hearts are filled with the love of the world; our minds are dark and are assailed by doubts, our wills are too often given to selfishness and our bodies to laziness and unrighteousness. By sinning against our neighbors, we have also sinned against You, in whose image they were created. On account of Jesus' righteousness accredited to us by Your grace, forgive us! This we pray in the name of our Lord. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #663, "O God Eternal"

*Psalm 63*

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication**

Gal. 5:1

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #586, "Take My Life, And Let It Be"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship**

Jn. 5:39-40

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #293, "Golden Harps Are Sounding"

**God Blesses us in the Benediction**

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

\*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

## A Result of Spiritual Growth: The Assurance of Sin Forgiven

Colossians 2:13-14, 20-21

Study Notes for January 26, 2020

### I. Introduction

- A. Most in Christ enjoy the Assurance of their Salvation... yet most in Christ struggle on a day to day basis with the Assurance of Pardon for daily sin!

Jerry Bridges wrote, "We act as if God's grace only makes up for what our good works lack. We believe God's blessings are at least partially earned by our obedience and our spiritual disciplines. We know we are saved by grace, but we think we must live by our spiritual 'sweat.'" (*Transforming Grace*, p. 22)

### B. Background

1. The book of Colossians was written to a group of Christians who were struggling with a pre-Gnostic heresy which mixed the teaching of Judaism with Platonic thinking. As such the false teachers in Colossae...
2. The Context of the Passage before us (cf. Col. 2:9-10, 11-12)...

## II. A Result of Spiritual Growth: The Assurance of Sin Forgiven, Col. 2:13-14, 20-21.

### A. The Doctrine Stated, Col. 2:13.

When we were "spiritually dead" God "made us alive together with Him."

The basis for the spiritual resurrection/regeneration... it is "the forgiveness of ALL our sins."

1. If Paul were talking just about past sins, the word would be unnecessary...
2. That Paul inserts the word "all" tells that what is in mind here is not simply past sins, but "all" sins!...

**Illustration:** Living in a Dimly Lit Room

### \*Where We Live

1. Christ told sinners, "Your sins are forgiven" (Mt. 9:2; Mk. 2:5; Lk. 5:20). Was this hyperbole? Was Christ speaking metaphorically? Was Christ lying?
2. When you came to Christ and confessed your sin and He said, "Your sins are forgiven", you on your part may only have been asking for 1/1 trillionth of your sin to be forgiven (for those are the only sins you saw at the time); yet the text before us tells us that Christ forgave them all (cf. Col. 2:13b; Is. 38:17b; Ps. 103:12; Is. 43:25)

Jay Adams pointed out the difference between "not remembering" and "forgetting", "'Forgetting' is passive and is something that we human beings, not being omniscient, do. 'Not remembering' is active; it is a promise whereby one person (in this case, God) determines not to remember the sins of another against him. To 'not remember' is simply a graphic way of saying, 'I will not bring up these matters to you or others in the future.'" (*From Forgiven to Forgiving*, p. 18)

## B. The Doctrine Supported, Col. 2:14.

Debtor's Prison

The Document Given Upon Release

τετέλεσται (*tetelestai*)

The Redemptive Implication of this Statement (cf. Jn. 19:29, 30)

## C. The Doctrine Supplanted, Col. 2:20-21.

The Elementary Principles of the World

This refers not to a Creation Ordinance (like marriage, work, and the sabbath), but to the rudimentary principle by which a man in his creatureliness relates to God: that is, their works and so their religious activity!...

When we return to the "elementary principles of the world" what have we done?

\*cf. Gal. 2:18, 21

### \*Where We Live

1. In what does the Christian live as if "Christ died needlessly"?
2. Yet, what about passages like 1 Jn. 1:9? They seem to imply that present forgiveness is based on our current confession of sin." So how do we understand these passages in light of Christ's finished Cross work?

Recall Jn. 12:27-30...

The many passages calling for the believer to confess his sin are given not to teach that through our confession more of our sins are forgiven. Rather they are given to assure the confessing saint that all their sins are forgiven... even the one they just confessed!

C. Jack Miller, reflecting on Christ's Radical Forgiveness, put it this way, "Never again look at your sins apart from Christ. You can't handle them. You'll either suppress them and deny that they're there, or if you see how bad they are, they will overwhelm you. Learn to view your mistakes, your failings, and your transgressions in the light of Jesus's forgiveness." (Sermon on Mt. 9:2)

*Listen to or watch this or any Bethel sermon at our web page at [www.bethelpreschurch.org](http://www.bethelpreschurch.org).*