

INTRODUCTION

Our Lord Jesus has taught us to pray for forgiveness or remission of our sins.

We are transgressors of God's law, deserving of punishment by eternal death.

We are debtors, owing an up-payable debt.

But Jesus Christ has shed His own blood for us

taking our punishment upon Himself

paying out debt for us in His own precious blood

Believing in Him, in Jesus Christ crucified,

We pray in faith that God will, for Christ's sake, forgive us

But we know that it is in vain to pray that God will forgive us unless we repent; that is, unless we return to the Lord with all our heart and soul.

So we repent and pray for forgiveness.

We trust that repentance and forgiveness from God will be to us a washing clean from the stain of our sins, by which the blood of Jesus Christ washes us as white as snow.

Those are the glorious things about God's love and grace toward us, that we have studied together these past two weeks, in the fifth petition of The Lord's Prayer.

But there is a second half to the fifth petition, pertaining not just to God forgiving our debts, but to us forgiving other people their debts. We start on that today. But rather than working directly on our prayer regarding forgiveness of others, we are going to consider the doctrine of forbearance of others. Our Lord teaches us to forbear and to forgive. When one of those two things is left out of our thinking, or when the two are thought of as if they were one, forgiving our debtors, and praying to God about that, can be confusing, and can trouble our conscience unnecessarily. So I speak to you today, from the scriptures not just about forgiveness, but about forbearance and forgiveness.

TEXT

Matthew 6:12

Luke 11:4a

BODY

I. The Meaning of “Forbear” and “Forbearance”

A. Greek

1. G430 *anechomai* forbear
2. G463 *anochē* forbearance
3. lit. to hold yourself up, or to hold yourself back

B. English

1. to forbear; to bear with
2. forbearance, patience, restraint

C. Concept

1. to hold yourself up from doing something
2. specifically, to hold yourself back from any kind of revenge against someone who has wronged you

II. God’s Forbearance and Forgiveness Toward Us

A. Romans 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness [G5544], **forbearance** [G463 *anochē*], and longsuffering [G3115 *makrothumia*], not knowing that the goodness [G5543] of God leads you to **repentance**?

1. GEN patience CSB restraint

B. Forbearance/Forbearing: When a sinner has not repented, but God is willing to forgive him, God forbears.

C. Forgiveness/Forgiving: When a sinner has repented, God forgives.

D. See the pattern:

1. goodness/bountifulness/kindness
2. forbearance/patience/restraint
3. longsuffering/sufferance/patience
4. by this God leads the sinner to repentance
5. then He forgives

E. Forbearance is what is happening when the person has sinned against God, and God is willing to forgive, but the person has not yet repented.

F. Once the person has repented, then there is forgiveness.

III. Our Forbearance and Forgiveness Toward Other People

- A. Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness [G5544], humility, meekness, longsuffering [G3115 *makrothumia*]; 13 **bearing with** one another, and **forgiving** one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
1. GEN, KJV: Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another...
 2. v. 13b even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do
- B. Forbearance/Forbearing: When a sinner has not repented, but God is willing to forgive him, God forebears.
- C. Forgiveness/Forgiving: When a sinner has repented, God forgives.
- D. Note in verse 13, we are to forgive even as Christ forgave us
1. not just that Christ forgave us, so we also forgive
 2. but we are to forgive AS Christ forgave us
- E. See the pattern
1. kindness (same Greek word from Romans 2:4)
 2. longsuffering/patience
 3. forbearing/bearing with
 4. forgiving
 5. we know that between forbearing and forgiving comes repentance
 - a) from the pattern we saw in Romans 2
 - b) from the law our Lord Jesus gave us Luke 17:3-4 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. 4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

IV. APPLICATION

- A. You may have been taught that when someone wrongs you, you are supposed to forgive him
1. even if he doesn't admit it was wrong
 2. even if he doesn't tell you he's sorry
 3. even if he doesn't stop doing it
- B. That doctrine surely is well-meaning, but is not true to the word of God.
1. the Bible teaches us to forgive as the Lord forgives us; but He does not forgive those who do not repent
 2. we cannot make ourselves better forgivers than our Lord Jesus is
 3. since He said, "if he repents, forgive him," we cannot do better than what our Lord Jesus told us to do by forgiving him if he does not repent
- C. That practice is not best for the offender or the offended
1. if a person is forgiven without repentance, he is not corrected from his errors
 2. if a person tries to forgive someone who has wronged him without that person repenting, he is bringing additional grief upon himself
 - a) the Holy Spirit is not working in him on the same purpose
 - b) his conscience is conflicted
 - c) the born-again inner man loves the law of God, but does not love this doctrine, because it is not the law of God

CONCLUSION

Let us practice the forgiveness that our Lord Jesus practices: forgiveness upon repentance.

Let us pray that God will forgive us our debts, and that we forgive our debtors.

Let us pray that God will grant repentance to our debtors, so that we can forgive them.

Let us pray that God will help us to forbear those who sin against us, as also He does.

Let us pray that by our kindness, longsuffering, and forbearance, those who sin against us may come to repentance and be forgiven, both by us and by God.

Allison - Prelude

Haven - Trinity 147 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - Alex lead

Rita - sheet "He Will Hold Me Fast" - Andrew lead

Rita - Trinity 685 "Tell Me the Story of Jesus"

Stephen - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 86:7-15

Thad - Scripture Reading - 2 Peter 3:8-15

Dillon - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - 2 Peter 3:18

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1689 Appendix I: On Baptism

bottom of p.86 Eph 4:2-3 is alluded to, with word “forbearing”

Romans 3:23-26 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His **forbearance [G463 *anochē*]** God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

GEN: patience (verse 26)

KJV, NKJV, ESV: forbearance

CSB: restraint

Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 **bearing with** one another, and **forgiving** one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

GEN, KJV: Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another...

Proverbs 19:11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression.

Bengel (echoed by JFB and others):

forbearing in regard to present offences, forgiving past offenses

Gill:

Forbearing: Not only bearing one another's burdens, and with one another's weaknesses, but forbearing to render evil for evil, or railing for railing, or to seek revenge for affronts given, in whatsoever way, whether by words or deeds

Forgiving: all trespasses and offences, so far as committed against themselves, and praying to God to forgive them, as committed against him

let his quarrel or complaint be what it will, ever so great...yet let him put up with it, and forgive it

as God he forgives sins freely, fully, forgetting the injuries done, not upbraiding with former offences, and that too without asking, and before there is any appearance of repentance; and so should the saints forgive one another

Clarke:

Forgiving: If ye receive offense, be instantly ready to forgive on the first acknowledgment of the fault. Even as Christ forgave you: Who required no satisfaction, and sought for nothing in you but the broken, contrite heart, and freely forgave you as soon as you returned to Him.

Barnes:

We are willing to declare that we forgive him when he asks it

Spurgeon:

Remember how much Christ has forgiven you, and show a forbearing and forgiving spirit to others.

Eadie:

Forbearing: The sense is, having patience with one another-waiting with composure under injury or provocation, till those who so offend may come to a better mind.

Forgiving: carries forward the sense-not only are we to forbear, but we are also to forgive. Not only are we to show humility, meekness, and long-suffering as we forbear, but we are also to manifest bowels of mercy and goodness in forgiving.

forbearing G430 *anechomai* G463 *anochē* forbearance

Matthew 17:17 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I **bear with** you? Bring him here to Me."

Acts 18:14 And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should **bear with** you.

1 Corinthians 4:12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we **endure**;

Ephesians 4:1-3 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, **bearing with** one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

longsuffering G3115 *makrothumia* noun longsuffering, patience

G3117 *makros* long + G2372 *thumos* passion, fierceness, indignation, wrath

G3116 *makrothumos* adv

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

Matthew 6:14-15 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."

Matthew 18:21-35 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. 28 "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Mark 11:25-26 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Luke 6:27-38 "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. 29 To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. 31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. 32 "But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. 36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. 37 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Luke 17:3-4 Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

Luke 23:33-34 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. 34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

2023-02-10 Andrew was singing "God, My King, Thy Might Confessing"