

Scripture: Micah 7

Lord's Day 21.56

Singing: 231:1-3 – 397:3-6 – 235:1-3 – 83:1-3

Intro: Why do we have the 10th article in the twelve articles of faith?

A. Because doctrine of forgiveness of sin is such a majestic truth to believe

B. Because the teaching of forgiveness of sin is the glory of Christianity

● *God cannot be worshipped sincerely and from the heart until this conviction be fixed and deeply rooted in our hearts, that God is merciful (forgiving), not just in general, but towards us! Until we are thus persuaded, let us know that we have made but little progress in the school of God. (John Calvin)*

C. Because of the importance of believing this for knowing real comfort

D. Because not believing this truth is a serious way of grieving the Spirit

There is Forgiveness with God

I. Because God declares it II. Because Christ made it possible

I. There is forgiveness of sin with God because God declares it: Micah 7:18

A. This truth will not mean much if you do not sense how bad your sins are.

B. This truth is hard to believe when your conscience roars within. Ps. 38:2

C. Yet this truth God declares: *He is ready to forgive you* (Micah 7:18; Ps. 86:5)

1. Don't measure Him by your own standards (Is. 55:7-9)

2. Be careful in thinking there is *no forgiveness* for you

3. But also be careful with finding rest on your conviction of sin!

II. There is forgiveness with God because Christ made it possible

A. God's forgiveness is based on a *legal transfer* not just a *generous cancellation*

1. When we 'forgive' we promise to put it behind us – something God does
 - a. Micah 7:19 – Is. 43:25 – Jer. 31:34

2. God's forgiveness is not a mere cancellation of the *consequences of sin*

B. Gospel provision of each believer's acquittal is based on *Christ's satisfaction*

Closing Call: *There is forgiving with Thee, that thou mayest be feared.* (Ps. 130:4)

Truth Gems on Forgiveness

God has never promised to forgive a single sin that we are not willing to forsake.

Sins are not just remitted as if they had never been committed.

The cross is God's cost of your forgiveness.

God doesn't just forgive because He is love. The ground upon which God forgive is the cross of His Son Whom He gave in love.

God never forgives sin without at the same time changing the nature of the sinner.

The Bible knows nothing of mere pardon. There can be no pardon except on the ground of satisfaction of justice.