

**Acts 5:31, 13:38; Ephesians 1:7; Lord's Day 21**  
**I BELIEVE IN THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

- I. The objective reality.
  - A. To understand forgiveness we have to have an accurate understanding of sin.
    - 1. And an accurate knowledge of sin requires an accurate knowledge of God as Creator and as Father.
    - 2. All men are sinners because of our relationship to Adam, our first father and representative head (Rom. 5:12).
  - B. Each and every sin must be and will be punished with eternal damnation (Heb. 12:29).
    - 1. By nature we constantly conceal, deny, minimize, rationalize, justify our wrongs, or shift the blame to others.
    - 2. God will by no means clear the guilty (Ex. 34:7); He cannot forgive without the punishment being endured fully.
  - C. Forgiveness means that the perfectly just God completely punished each sin and sinfulness, so nothing is left.
    - 1. Every one of the sins of every believer is forgiven, without exception.
    - 2. Further, God declares me to be righteous and worthy of eternal life.
    - 3. The only basis for forgiveness is God's great and amazing grace.
- II. The subjective experience of the forgiveness of sins.
  - A. Forgiveness is experienced by faith in the Christ proclaimed by the church in the preaching of the gospel (Acts 5:31; 13:38).
  - B. Second, forgiveness is experienced by those who express godly sorrow (over against worldly sorrow) (II Cor. 7:10).
  - C. Third, forgiveness is experienced in the way of constant confession/repentance and embracing Jesus.
  - D. Receiving God's forgiving grace...
    - 1. Gratefully strive to live according to all God's commandments by loving Him with our all.
    - 2. Be assured that no sin still in us against our will can condemn us.