



WEEKLY SERMON

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Pastor David Miklas

Message Forgiveness –Part III

Phone: 717-625-2992

e-mail: pdmikBBM@aol.com

Text: Romans 13:1-5; Mark 3:28-29; Revelation 20:11-15

“To God Be the Glory”

If a hymn dies, can it live again? The life story of “**To God Be the Glory**” proves the answer is “yes.” Originally composed in America before 1875, and written by Fanny Crosby with W.H. Doane as the composer of the music, it was almost immediately forgotten in its native land. In 1952, the Billy Graham Crusade Team went to England, where they first made extensive use of the hymn in their meetings. It was an immediate success. Upon their return to the United States, they found the same enthusiastic response. It has been a favorite hymn ever since.

“**To God Be the Glory**” differs from most hymns written by Fanny Crosby in that it contains more objective praise of God rather than the typical subjective testimony or Christian type of song.

In Psalm 108:5 we read, “**Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth...**” In Romans 15:6 we read, “**That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**” In the Westminster Catechism we read, “**The chief end of man is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.**” “**The reason for man’s creations and the whole purpose of his living is to express praises of God, with his lips and his life.**”

We give God glory because of His love, a love which provided redemption for mankind. The Apostle Paul exclaimed in Galatians 6:14, “**But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.**” In II Corinthians 6:20 Paul reminds us, “**For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.**” We bring nothing to our own salvation: it is all of God. Therefore we can take no credit for it. **To God be the glory!**

**To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.**

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

**Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

Refrain:

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done...**

In closing here is a challenge for each day of each Christian's life found in Matthew 5:16, **“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and GLORIFY your Father which is in heaven.”** We should be thankful if others feel that we have been gracious and loving in our relations with them. But we dare not keep the praise for ourselves! It is God who enables us to be Christ-like. “To God Be the Glory!”

In His Amazing Grace

Pastor David Miklas

“The Boundaries of Forgiveness – Part III”

INTRODUCTION: Old Joe was dying. Realizing that time was running out, he wanted to make everything right. But something bothered him. He was at odds with Bill, formerly one of his best friends. Joe had often argued with him over the most trivial matters, and in recent years they hadn't spoken at all. Wanting to resolve the problem, he sent for Bill, who graciously consented to visit him. When Bill arrived, Joe told him that he was afraid to go into eternity with bad feelings between them, and he wanted to make things right. Then he reached out for Bill's hand and said, "I forgive you; will you forgive me?" Everything seemed fine in their time together. However, just as Bill was leaving, Joe shouted after him, "But remember, if I get better, this doesn't count!"

We smile. Yet what a picture this gives of how we sometimes treat one another! The forgiveness we profess is superficial. We may say we forgive, but when the least little friction arises, how quick we are to resurrect past grievances! As someone said we like to "BURY THE HATCHET, BUT LEAVE THE HANDLE STICKING OUT." That way it's easy to pick it up again if we can use it for our advantage.

However the Apostle Paul in those breath-taking and arresting words of Ephesians 4:32 said, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, FORGIVING one another, even as God for Christ sake, hath FORGIVEN you." Paul expressed the message that it's characteristic of saints to forgive. We, who have been forgiven by God, should we not also forgive others?

Here again is our definition of forgiveness. "Forgiveness is a CHOICE, to reconcile with an offender by erasing their debt, and agreeing to live with the consequences of their sin."

Forgiveness is a choice.

Forgiveness is a concern "to reconcile with our offender."

Forgiveness has a cost. Forgiveness comes with a price tag.

Forgiveness carries a consequence. True forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of that person's sin.

We have been learning the attitude of forgiveness God wants in our lives. Thank God:

He forgives every KIND of sin.

He forgives every TIME we sin.

He forgives the very MOMENT we sin and ask for forgiveness.

He forgives that sin FOREVER. He never brings it up again.

But do we understand because of the Holiness of God there are some exceptions to forgiveness? In this message, there are three exceptions I want to call to your attention wherein you will never find forgiveness.

FIRST: Where forgiveness should never occur. Please get a hold of this, "When forgiveness should never occur is in human government." There is no passage in the scriptures that gives us a hint that human government is to grant forgiveness to human society. Go all the way back to Genesis 9:6 where God instituted human government and you will find that government is to **PROTECT** the innocent and to **PROSECUTE and EXECUTE JUDGMENT** upon the guilty. Genesis 9:6 reads, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God made He man." There you have the origin and purpose of human government.

In Romans 13:1-5 the Apostle Paul instructs us regarding the purpose of human government:

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. (2) Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. (3) For

rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: (4) For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. (5) Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.”

Verses 1-2 clearly teach that government was established for our PROTECTION not for our PROVISION.

Verse 2 teaches those who disobey the laws of government will receive punishment not forgiveness.

Listen carefully, if God set up in every institution of man, in the family, in the church, in the work place, among our neighbors and human government a system of forgiveness, there would be total anarchy. If this was true, you would have people running around saying

"It doesn't matter what I do, you are supposed to forgive me."

"It doesn't matter if I lie, steal, cheat, commit adultery, murder...you are supposed to forgive me."

Because of the depraved nature of man, there had to be one institution where there would be **NO** forgiveness, so there would be terror to those who, in their sinful nature, do evil.

You sin against me, and as a CHRISTIAN, I'll forgive you.

You sin and confess it, and as a CHURCH we'll forgive you.

However, if you violate the laws of the government, they are not going to forgive you. Government was not established to **PROVIDE** for its citizens. It originated to offer **PROTECTION** for its citizens. In order to protect, it has to have **PURE JUSTICE**. In **PURE JUSTICE**, there is never room for forgiveness. Notice again verse 4, "... But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he (the government) beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.”

We have this upside down in our society. It seems:

in our churches today,
in our families today,
in our work places today,
with our neighbors today,
there is no place for forgiveness!

Instead, more forgiveness is found in our government than in our church where those who do wrong ought to find forgiveness. Our government is not in the forgiving business. It is not to forgive sin. It's supposed to execute wrath. Where are we to find forgiveness?

Where forgiveness ought to occur is in your family. All individuals ought to find forgiveness in their family.

Sometimes your brothers, sisters, parents, or children have done something to you and you won't forgive them. You live on and on in bitterness, anger and family crisis.

Sometimes within families there are those who have an unforgiving spirit towards another member who has done nothing wrong to you at all. But you carry the same grudge against them.

That, my friends, is not God-like nor is it scriptural. Where forgiveness should occur is in your family.

Where forgiveness ought to occur is in the church. My friends, every person who enters the doors of this church ought, if they desire restitution and they desire to get right,

to find forgiveness and restitution in this church. **That is what the church is all about.** The church is about forgiveness and helping people restore their lives. Because they, like all of us, are a bunch of wicked old sinners, and we ought to forgive them. Remember, Ephesians 4:23 says, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **FORGIVING one another, even as God for Christ sake, hath FORGIVEN you.**" Where we ought to find forgiveness is in the church.

Where forgiveness ought to occur is in the Christian's work place. There are Christian employers who will not forgive their employees. There are some employees who will not forgive their employers. Yet, we ought to be able to go to our work places where Christians are and find forgiveness.

In the Gospel of Matthew 18:21-35, Jesus illustrates the meaning of forgiveness in the parable of a king who had a servant who owed him 10,000 talents. The parable comes in answer to a question from Peter in verse 21, "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times?" and the Lord's answer in verse 22, "Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."

The 10,000 Talents owed by this man was so much money it's hard to conceive how one could owe that much. How much was this?

One talent was worth about 6000 denarii, and one denarius represented an ordinary day's wage. It would take this servant, working 6 days a week, 1000 weeks or about 19 years just to earn ONE TALENT! This was AN IMPOSSIBLE SUM TO REPAY. THIS SERVANT OWED WHAT COULD ACTUALLY BE 10 MILLION DOLLARS, which is inconceivable when an average day's wage was 16 cents.

But in verse 27 it says, "Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt." The king who represents God and the servant who represents all of us, owed a debt we couldn't pay, yet God forgave us **ALL OF IT.**

The story doesn't end there. Notice what this servant did in verse 28, "But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest." The servant who had been forgiven of an insurmountable debt refused to show mercy and forgive one who only owed about 3 months worth of debt.

When the king found out about it, he was furious and said to him, verse 32-34,

"Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: (33) Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? (34) And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him."

Now notice verse 35, "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses." What a picture of somebody who wants to take all the forgiveness God can give, but isn't willing to give it to somebody else.

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF THERE? HAVE YOU TOO SOON FORGOTTEN THE MERCY THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM GOD?

My friends, forgiveness does not belong in human government. It doesn't belong in the White House or in Washington D.C. or in Harrisburg, but

**Forgiveness belongs in your life.
Forgiveness belongs in your family.**

Forgiveness belongs in this church.

Look, if you have been unforgiving to someone in your life, now is your chance to get it right with God and them.

SECOND: How forgiveness would never occur. According to Mark 3, forgiveness would never occur when one blasphemes against the Holy Spirit. This passage speaks about the **UNPARDONABLE SIN**, the sin of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit.

In Mark 3 the Pharisees were accusing Jesus of being Satan because he cast demons out of people. Jesus comes back in verse 23 and says, "How can Satan cast out Satan?" Then he comes to verse 28-29,

"Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: (29) But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:..."

Please notice right at the beginning of verse 28, Jesus gives perhaps the greatest statement on forgiveness found in the entire Bible. Here it says "ALL sin shall be forgiven unto the sons of men..." In other words, **THERE IS NOTHING YOU COULD EVER DO THAT COULDN'T BE FORGIVEN BY GOD.**

**No matter what sexual sins you have ever done.
No matter what lie you have ever said.
No matter what you have stolen in the past.**

No matter what you did in the past or are doing in the present, my friends, God can and will forgive you of that sin. However, verse 29 gives to us another exception to forgiveness.

What does it mean to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit? The word "blaspheme" means "to hurt, to injure, to slander." It actually means "to resist, or to fight back." When you resist the Holy Spirit's working in your life, you are forever "**CLOSING THE DOOR TO FORGIVENESS IN YOUR LIFE.**"

Don't panic! Let me clarify this by saying, "No **SAVED** person can ever commit the **UNPARDONABLE SIN.**" I, **Pastor DAVID MIKLAS**, can never commit the **UNPARDONABLE SIN.** Why? Because as a 6 year old, I put my faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. All my sin was forever forgiven.

Let me put your mind at ease. If you have trusted Jesus as your **SAVIOUR**, you can **NEVER COMMIT THE UNPARDONABLE SIN.**

**The deal is settled.
The case is closed against you.
Your SINS are FORGIVEN FOREVER.**

Jesus said in **John 5:24** a verse you ought to not only memorize but underline in your Bibles,

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

On the other hand, there are those who have closed the door to the Holy Spirit's working in their lives. This is the **ONE SIN** that will send a person to eternal damnation. If you are listening to me this morning, and you have never received Christ as your Saviour, yet

You are playing the game of church, or
You are playing the game of trying to be holy and righteous, and
You think that by doing that you are saved, my friends, you are in danger of eternal damnation in an eternal hell.

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is **CLOSING the DOOR** of forgiveness forever. That's why it's the unpardonable sin. Forgiveness would never come to the individual who would willfully reject truth and resist the Holy Spirit, who is obviously working in your life for your salvation.

First: Where forgiveness should never occur would be in human government.

Second: How forgiveness would never occur would be for resisting the Holy Spirit in Salvation.

THIRD: Where forgiveness could never occur. Where forgiveness could never occur, would be in hell. My friends, if you go to hell, unforgiven of your sins, you will **NEVER BE FORGIVEN ONCE YOU GET THERE.**

Once you go to hell there is no forgiveness.

Once you go into eternity without Christ, there is no forgiveness.

In Revelation 20:11-15 we have the passage concerning the Judgment of God at the Great White Throne.

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. (12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. (14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (15) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

My friends, everyone standing at this judgment will be condemned to hell. There will never be a **TIME or PLACE** for forgiveness after that. You may cry out, "O God, forgive me God, I am sorry for my sins." But after you have passed into eternity there is no more opportunity for forgiveness. After you die on this earth, there is NO more forgiveness, if you haven't received Christ.

There is never going to come a time even at the Great White Throne Judgment when you will be able to repent of your sins and receive the forgiveness of God.

There will never come a time even after a billion years that you will be able to repent of your sins and receive the forgiveness of God and get out of hell and go to heaven.

Perhaps there is someone saying, Pastor that kind of hell fire and damnation preaching is not right, it is cruel and unkind. You are trying to scare a person out of hell and into heaven. No, my friends, the worst kind of preaching is to withhold that eternal truth from people.

Notice again verse 15. Does it say, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was given a chance to beg for forgiveness"? It doesn't say that at all. It says they were "cast into the lake of fire."

Now is the only time you can get forgiveness from God for your sins. I ask you today, have you ever been forgiven of your sins? In your lifetime, has there ever been a time you prayed to receive Christ as your Saviour, believing that what Christ did on the cross would cover your sins? If you have, then you have been judicially forgiven by God and

are saved from being thrown into the lake of fire.

**Where forgiveness should never occur would be in human government.
How forgiveness would never occur would be for resisting the Holy Spirit in Salvation.
Where forgiveness could never occur, would be in Hell.**

Again from Ephesians 4:32 we read, "**And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, FORGIVING one another, even as God for Christ sake, hath FORGIVEN you.**" Maybe the problem with our forgiveness is we have forgotten of how much we have been forgiven by God. Certainly, we are not going to hell, if we have received Christ as Saviour. But, Oh,

**When our fellow Christian says something about us,
When our fellow Christian does something to us,
When our spouse does something we don't like, we hold it over their heads.**

We hold them in bondage to that sin or offense. Do we not realize of what we have been forgiven? Because when we realize that we have been forgiven by a Holy and righteous God, there should be nothing any one could do to us that could not be forgiven.

By God's grace may our church be a haven for those desiring **RESTITUTION, RECONCILIATION, and RESTORATION**. May this always be a church willing to forgive others people's sins. Who do we think we are that we shouldn't forgive others as we have been forgiven by God? "**Have you buried the HATCHET and the HANDLE?**"

Remember, "**Forgiveness is a CHOICE, to reconcile with an offender by erasing their debt, and agreeing to live with the consequences of their sin.**"

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon "**The Boundaries of Forgiveness – Part III**" then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, "**...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...**"
Romans 10:13, "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: "**I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.**"

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, please let me know. Please send an e-mail to pastormiklas@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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