

The World Remembers, But God Forgets

I. Introduction:

A. Peter asked Jesus: "...Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times" (**Matthew 18:21**)?

1. Jesus taught that, **if** a brother repents, forgiveness is basically unlimited (**Luke 17:1-4**).
2. An unwillingness to forgive results in like treatment from God (**Matthew 6:14-15** and **James 2:13**).

B. Man however often tends to want to see vengeance on those that wrong them (i.e. **Jeremiah 18:23**).

1. Anger against those that wrong a person can cause strong feelings against forgiveness (**Psalms 69:22-28**).
2. Sometimes people will even want mercy to be forsaken (**Psalms 59:5**).
3. Think of times in your life wherein someone remembered something you did that was wrong, you tried to fix it, but they brought it up years later.

II. Body: Unlike Man, God Is Willing To Forgive AND Forget (**Hebrews 10:1-23**).

A. To be very clear, God does not render forgiveness without any action on the sinner's part (**Luke 13:1-5**).

1. Humility, confession, etc. is required (**II Chronicles 7:14**, **James 4:6-10**, and **I John 1:9**).
2. Additionally, one has to turn, depart from sin for God to be forgiving (**Proverbs 28:13**, **Ezekiel 18:21**, and **II Timothy 2:19**).

B. Let's talk about "redemption" and "forgiveness" (**Colossians 1:12-14**).

1. "Redemption" is defined as: "1) a releasing effected by payment of ransom; 1a) redemption, deliverance; 1b) liberation procured by the payment of a ransom" (Thayer; Strong's # 629).
2. "Forgiveness" is defined as: "1) release from bondage or imprisonment; 2) forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty" (Thayer; Strong's # 859).
3. Redemption comes through Christ (**Romans 3:24**, **I Corinthians 1:30**, **Ephesians 1:3-7**, and **Hebrews 9:11-17**).
4. Forgiveness comes through Jesus (**Matthew 26:28**, **Luke 24:44-47**, **Acts 5:30-31**, and **Acts 13:38-39**).

C. In the state of redemption and forgiveness, God does not "impute" sin (**Romans 4:7-8**; cf. **Psalms 32:1-2**).

1. "Impute" is defined as: "to take an inventory, that is, estimate (literally or figuratively): - conclude, (ac-) count (of), + despise, esteem, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think (on)" (Strong's # 3049). The word is general and conveys the idea of giving account (cf. **I Corinthians 4:1**) and is also translated "thought" (cf. **I Corinthians 13:11**). Paul used this Greek term translated "charge" (**II Timothy 4:9-16**).

2. In the state of redemption and forgiveness, sins are in the past rather than accounted for in the present or future (**I Corinthians 6:9-11**).
3. Be thankful to God that you can have a past wherein you were a servant of sin, but you can now be free from sin (**Romans 6:16-23**).

III. Conclusion: Thanks be to God that we can have our sins forgiven so that we can have that eternal inheritance (**Acts 26:18**).