Winter Bible Study Fairview Memorial Missionary Baptist Church Feb 2015

Subject: Forgiveness'

My goal tonight is to try to talk about a subject, I believe is easy to tell others about, but not easy to implement in one's own life! "FORGIVNESS" What is it? How do you do it? Is it important in your Christian walk? These may seem like easy questions to answers, but are they easy question to apply to our everyday life? With the help of an Almighty God, I shall endeavor to give you some insight on this subject. With the hope that at the very least I would be able to get you to examine your life, and how this subject may be impacting it. I for one can tell you this subject has been effecting my own life the past year and half. In my opinion it is not a very easy subject to come to grips with. It can make you hateful, spiteful, mean and downright un-Christian like. Some of you may not agree with all I say tonight, but that is not my goal. As stated, my goal is to get us to have a conversation and to get us to think about it in our own lives!

God's Amazing Forgiveness



FORGIV'ENESS, n. forgiv'ness.

Mark Twain

The ultimate forgiveness is when we are forgiven of our sins and given eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. Certain things had to happen before this could take place in anyone's heart. Godly sorrow needs to set up in the hearts of the wrong, (which is a sorrowfulness of our guilt before God, feeling the condemnation of

our guilt and the wrongfulness of our sins.) Then, repentance toward God! Without repentance no one can find forgiveness. Before God gives grace and faith there is repentance.

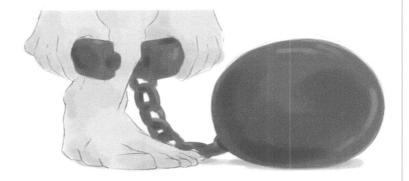
2Co 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Forgiveness: The words of the Lord's Prayer embody the gospel of forgiveness. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." As we forgive so are we forgiven. It is a prerogative of God only to forgive sins, and forgiveness is offered fully and freely to all those who truly repent & believe. Man is taught to have the forgiving spirit irrespective of repentance of the other party interested.

We find in the bible many who have prayed for forgiveness, many who sought for forgiveness, and many promises of forgiveness, I would like to look at some people and places where forgiveness is taught and promised to us. By this we may learn a bit more about how to forgive and who can be forgiven! By looking into the Word of God, we might just find ourselves in the pages of the Bible.

- Forgiveness is a choice. When you say, "I can't forgive that person," what you're really saying is, "I'm *choosing* not to forgive that person." If you say, "I can forgive", you'll find yourself moving towards forgiving them.
- Sometimes it helps to think of how others have forgiven under incredible circumstances.
- Keep the following quotes in mind if you're finding it hard to generate positive feelings for the person:
 - "Those who are the hardest to love, need it the most."
 - o "Follow peace with all men, and holiness," -Hebrews 12:14."
 - "As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons." -Max Ehrmann
 - o "Hating someone is drinking poison and expecting the other person to die from it."
 - "If we could read the secret history of our enemies we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
 - o "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" The Golden Rule
 - o "Be kind, for all you meet, are fighting a great battle."- Philo
 - o "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. But whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble." 1 John 2:9,10
 - "Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him."
 1 John 3:15
 - "The hatred you're carrying is a live coal in your heart far more damaging to yourself than to them."
 Lawana Blackwell, The Dowry of Miss Lydia Clark, 1999.
 - "The stupid neither forgive nor forget; the naive forgive and forget; the wise forgive but do not forget."
 - "But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Mark 11:26.
 - "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" Matthew 6:14
 - Forgive him or her; don't tell them, that's the answer! Forgiveness is yours and only yours, to live without forgiveness is a life full of hurt.

Learn that the Aramaic word for "forgive" means literally to "untie." The fastest way to free yourself from an enemy and all associated negativity is to forgive. Untie the bindings and loosen yourself from that person's ugliness. Your hatred has tied you to the person responsible for your pain. Your forgiveness enables you to start walking away from him or her and the pain. Forgiveness is for you and not the other party. Freeing yourself through forgiveness is like freeing yourself from chains of bondage or from prison.



One of the hardest and most difficult things we humans are ever called upon to do is to respond to evil with kindness, and to forgive the unforgivable. We love to read stories about people who have responded to hatred with love, but when that very thing is demanded of us personally, our default seems to be anger, and dread or anguish, depression, righteousness, hatred, etc. Yet study after study shows that one of the keys to longevity and good health is to develop a habit of gratitude and let go of past hurts.

Want to live a long, happy life? Forgive the unforgivable. It really is the kindest thing you can do for yourself. Your enemy may not deserve to be forgiven for all the pain and sadness and suffering purposefully inflicted on your life, but you deserve to be free of this evil. As <u>Ann Landers</u> often said, "hate is like an acid. It damages the vessel in which it is stored, and destroys the vessel on which it is poured."

It is not uncommon for Christians to have questions about <u>forgiveness</u>. Forgiveness does not come easy for most of us. Our natural instinct is to recoil in self-protection when we've been injured. We don't naturally overflow with mercy, grace and forgiveness when we've been wronged.

Is forgiveness a conscious choice, a physical act involving the will, or is it a feeling, an emotional state of being? The Bible offers insight and answers to these and many more questions about forgiveness. Let us take a look at some of these questions and find out what the Bible says about forgiveness.

1. Is forgiveness a conscious choice, or an emotional state?

Forgiveness is a choice we make through a decision of our will, motivated by **obedience to God** and his command to forgive.

The Bible instructs us to forgive as the Lord forgave us:

Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

2. How do we forgive when we don't feel like it? How do we translate the decision to forgive into a change of heart?

We forgive by faith, out of obedience. Since forgiveness goes against our nature, we must forgive by faith, whether we feel like it or not. We must trust God to do the work in us that needs to be done so that the forgiveness will be complete. God honors our commitment to obey Him and our desire to please him when we choose to forgive. He completes the work in his time. We must continue to forgive by faith, until the work of forgiveness (the Lord's job), is done in our hearts. We must continue to go to God and but ask for the help we need!

Php 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: (TRUST GOD TRUST GOD!)

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3. How will we know if we have truly forgiven?

Lewis B. Smedes wrote in his book, *Forgive and Forget*, "When you release the wrongdoer from the wrong, you cut a malignant tumor out of your inner life. You set a prisoner was yourself."

We will know the work of forgiveness is complete when we experience the freedom that comes as a result. We are the ones who suffer most when we choose not to forgive. When we do forgive, the Lord sets our hearts free from the <u>anger</u>, <u>bitterness</u>, and resentment and hurt that previously imprisoned us. Most times, **however**, **forgiveness is a slow process**.

Mat 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Mat 18:22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

This answer by Jesus makes it clear that forgiveness is not easy for us. It's not a one-time choice and then we automatically live in a state of forgiveness. Forgiveness may require a lifetime of forgiving, but it is important to the Lord. We must continue forgiving until the matter is settled in our heart.

4. Why must we forgive?

The best reason to forgive is because Jesus commanded us to forgive. We learn from Scripture, if we don't forgive, neither will we be forgiven:

Mat 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Mat 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

5. We also forgive so that our prayers will not be hindered:

Mar 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

We forgive out of obedience to the Lord. It is a choice, a decision we make. However, as we do this "forgiving," we discover the command is in place for our own good, and we receive the reward of our forgiveness—**freedom**.

Forgiveness Promised

- 2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
- Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- Mic 7:18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.
- Act 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
- Act 13:38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:
- Act 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.
- Jas 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.
- 1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Act 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.
- Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:
- 1Jn 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I hope I have begun by the help of the Lord to open your hearts and minds to the subject of forgiveness. It really does go past our comprehension and understanding! I want to continue this lessons by taking a look at some of the people in the bible that got forgiveness from an Almighty, Sovereign, Great and Wonderful God!

IN SOME CASES, RECONCILIATION IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE, BUT FORGIVNESS IS!

rec·on·cil·i·a·tion

1. the restoration of friendly relations.

synonyms: reuniting, reunion, bringing together (again), fence-mending; pacification, appearsement, placating, mollification

- 2. the action of making one view or belief compatible with another.
- 3. : the act of causing two people or groups to become friendly again after an argument or disagreement
- 4. : the process of finding a way to make two different ideas, facts, etc., exist or be true at the same time

Ivern Ball "Most of us can forgive and forget; we just don't want the other person to forget that we forgave"

Oscar Wilde "Always forgive your enemies - nothing annoys them so much."

Jesus understood the <u>brokenness</u> of the human condition. No one knows the human heart like him. He forgave tax collectors, prostitutes, and He even forgave his friend Peter, for betraying him. On the <u>cross</u>, he even forgave the people who killed him. He knows that humanity, all humanity is weak.

Forgiveness:

- 1. The act of forgiving; the pardon of an offender, by which he is considered and treated as not guilty. The forgiveness of enemies is a Christian duty.
- 2. The pardon or remission of an offense or crime; as the forgiveness of sin or of injuries.
- 3. Disposition to pardon; willingness to forgive.

4. Remission of a debt, fine or penalty.

IN THE LORD'S PRAYER, Jesus makes it clear that *our* forgiveness hinges on our willingness to forgive others. Forgiveness is an important requirement for friendship with God and other people, as well as for our own good health. The act of forgiving undergirds our physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs. Researchers in secular universities are attempting to determine the specific bodily effects that occur when a person forgives or refuses to forgive. So far, they have found that <u>refusal to forgive</u> has negative effects on physical health.

If forgiveness is so integral to our health, why do we hold so tightly to our anger, making ourselves increasingly miserable? One reason comes into our thinking that to forgive lets the offender off the hook. We want our version of justice — retribution; we want the offender to suffer in some way for what he or she has done. ...

<u>We also tend to think that forgiveness requires reconciliation</u>, which is not true. Reconciling, or getting back into relationship again, comes only after the act of forgiving and may or may not occur (and sometimes should not occur, depending on the offense). We can always forgive without reconciling. By forgiving we let ourselves off the hook of ongoing misery.

- Jane Marie Thibault and Richard L. Morgan From pages 48-49 of *Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life*:

Let's look into the bible at the references to forgiveness.

<u>Mutual Forgiveness is Commanded in scripture</u> / Gen 50:16-17 And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.

- . Mat 5:23-24 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.
- Mat 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- Mat 18:21-22 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.
- **2Co 2:7** So that contrariwise ye *ought* rather to forgive *him*, and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.
- **Eph 4:32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
- Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

Forgiveness Prayed for:

- Exo 32:31-32 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.
- 1Ki 8:30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.
- Psa 51:1-3 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.
- Psa 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

We find many places in the bible there is a pattern of praying for forgiveness! (why?)

Let us go on and look at a secular opinion on forgiveness:

Forgiveness: Letting go of grudges and bitterness / By Mayo Clinic staff

When someone you care about hurts you, you can hold on to anger, resentment and thoughts of revenge — or embrace forgiveness and move forward.

Nearly everyone has been hurt by the actions or words of another your colleague sabotaged a project or your partner had an affair. These wounds can leave you with lasting feelings of anger, bitterness or even vengeance — but if you don't practice for giveness, you might be the one who pays most dearly. By embracing forgiveness, you can also embrace peace, hope, gratitude and joy. Consider how forgiveness can lead you down the path of physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.

What is forgiveness?

Generally, forgiveness is a decision to let go of resentment and thoughts of revenge. The act that hurt or offended you might always remain a part of your life, but forgiveness can lessen its grip on you and help you focus on other, positive parts of your life. Forgiveness can even lead to feelings of understanding, empathy and compassion for the one who hurt you.

Forgiveness doesn't mean that you deny the other person's responsibility for hurting you, and it doesn't minimize or justify the wrong. You can forgive the person without excusing the act. Forgiveness brings a kind of peace that helps you go on with life.

What if I'm the one who needs forgiveness?

The first step is to honestly assess and acknowledge the wrongs you've done and how those wrongs have affected others. At the same time, avoid judging yourself too harshly. You're human, and you'll make mistakes. If you're truly sorry for something you've said or done, consider admitting it to those you've harmed. Speak of your sincere sorrow or regret, and specifically ask for forgiveness — without making excuses. Remember, however, you can't force someone to forgive you. Others need to move to forgiveness in their own time. Whatever the outcome, commit to treating others with compassion, empathy and respect.

Let's move back into the bible for more understanding!

How can we forgive? To answer this we need to understand the Trinity's Role in forgiveness.

When we have been hurt, our instinct is to hurt back. We want to make the other person pay for what they did. But exacting revenge steps over the line into God's territory, as Paul warned,

Rom 12:19-21 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

If we cannot take revenge, then we must forgive. God commands it, but how? How can we let it go when we have been unjustly hurt?

The answer lies in understanding the <u>Trinity's</u> role in forgiveness. Christ's role was to die for our sins. <u>God the Father's</u> role was to accept Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf and forgive us. To day, the <u>Holy Spirit's</u> role is to enable us to do those things in the Christian life we cannot do on our own, namely forgive others because God has forgiven us.

Refusing to forgive leaves an open wound in our soul that festers into <u>bitterness</u>, resentment, and <u>depression</u>. For our own good, and the good of the person who hurt us, we simply **must forgive**. Just as we trust God for our <u>salvation</u>, we have to trust him to make things right when we forgive. He will heal our wound so we can move on.

In his book, Landmines in the Path of the Believer, **Charles Stanley** says:

We are to forgive so that we may enjoy God's goodness without feeling the weight of anger burning deep within our hearts. Forgiveness does not mean we recant the fact that what happened to us was wrong. Instead, we roll our burdens onto the Lord and allow Him to carry them for us.

Rolling our burdens onto the Lord, that's the secret of the Christian life, and the secret of how to forgive. <u>Trusting God</u>. We must depend on him instead of ourselves. It's a hard thing but not a complicated thing. It's the only way we can truly forgive. 1. If we do not forgive each other, we will not be forgiven. The correct answer is True.

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

2. There are some sins that Christians are not to forgive each other for. The correct answer is False.

Ephesians 4:32 - And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

3. When we convert sinners from their ways, we aid in hiding a multitude of sins. The correct answer is True.

James 5:20 - Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

4. Christians are to be forgiving when dealing with confrontations. The correct answer is True.

Colossians 3:12-13 - Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

5. Jesus told Peter that we are to forgive a brother up to seven times. The correct answer is False.

Matthew 18:21 - Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times: but until seventy times seven.

6. When a Christian repents of sin, we are to enforce church discipline. The correct answer is False.

Luke 17:3 - Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him: and if he repent, forgive him.

- 7. Paul encouraged the church in Corinth to forgive rather than punish a brother. The correct answer is True.2 Corinthians 2:5-7 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all. Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such as one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.
- 8. Eternal forgiveness can be obtained without the shedding of blood. The correct answer is False.

Hebrews 9:22 - And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

- 9. When we humble ourselves, turn from our wicked ways, and pray, God forgives us. The correct answer is True.2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
- 10. The psalmist asked the Lord to remember the sins of his youth and forgive him. The correct answer is False. Psalm 25:7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O Lord.

11. When we turn from evil and keep God's commandments, our sins will not be mentioned. The correct answer is True.

Ezekiel 18:21-22 - But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.

13. The Lord blots out our transgressions for the sake of His children. The correct answer is False

Isaiah 43:25-26 - I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

14. Before Christ, a priest would offer up the atoning sacrifice on behalf of the people. The correct answer is True. Leviticus 4:20 - And he shall do with the bullock as he did with the bullock for a sin offering, so shall he do with this: and the priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them.

15. The law of Moses can justify sinners. The correct answer is False

Act 13:38-39 Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

16. When sin is not imputed, a man shall be blessed. The correct answer is True.

Rom 4:7-8 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

17. When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming, he declared to the crowd that Jesus would judge the world. The correct answer is false.

Joh 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

18. Jesus taught His disciples to ask for forgiveness in prayer. The correct answer is True.

Mat 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

19. We have redemption through Christ's blood. The correct answer is True.

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

20. The Pharisees believed that Jesus was blasphemous because He forgave sins. The correct answer is True.

Luk 5:21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

21. There is a sin that cannot be forgiven. The correct answer is True.

Mat 12:31-32 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

- 22. The prophet Micah claimed that God delighted in mercy and cast sins in the depths of the sea. The correct answer is True.
- Mic 7:18-19 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.
- 23. Christ asked God to Judge those who crucified Him? The correct answer is False
- Luk 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.
- 24. Because Christ was the ultimate sacrifice, there is no need for continued sin offerings. The correct answer is True.
- Heb 10:17-18 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more offering for sin.
- 25. Anyone can find forgiveness of sin? The correct answer is True.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Conclusion: I probably have given you more questions than answers, but I hope and pray I have been able to stir up your heart to go looking for your own answers in scriptures!

Luk 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, <u>rebuke him</u>; <u>and if he repent</u>, <u>forgive him</u>.