

# In the Gospel We Receive Forgiveness

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February 26, 2023 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

**God's Word brings our understanding of sin out of darkness and into the light.** (*Genesis-Revelation*)

**God has offered us abundant forgiveness from our sin through His Son.** (*Ephesians 1:7-10*)

**When we know the true weight of our sin we appreciate the true beauty of the Gospel.** (*Psalms 51 & 32*)

## ***Ephesians 2:1-3***

<sup>2</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—  
<sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (ESV)

## ***Colossians 2:13-14***

<sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (ESV)

## ***Ephesians 1:7-10***

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

**Open:** Share about a time when moving around in the dark led you to an undesirable outcome.

**Read & Discuss:** Ephesians 2:1-3

1. What feelings are stirred in you when you read this description of your life before Jesus saved you? What do Paul's words imply for those who do not follow Jesus but who feel they are "good people"?
2. What does it mean to be "children of wrath" (v. 3)? In order to fully appreciate forgiveness, we also need to recognize the weight of our sin. When sharing the Gospel, how might you try to explain how serious our sin is and why it deserves such severe consequences? How is understanding the weightiness of our sin meaningful to those who do know and trust in the Gospel?

**Read & Discuss:** Colossians 2:13-14

3. Have you ever had a debt forgiven? How did that feel? How did having that debt forgiven impact your life and what did it allow you to do?
4. In the case of verse 14, what was our "debt"? What do you think Paul wants us to understand from what he tells us God did with our "debt"? When sharing the Gospel with someone, what would you want them to understand about the nature of the forgiveness God offers us in Christ?

**Read & Discuss:** Ephesians 1:7-10

5. What does it mean in verse 7 when Paul says we have redemption? How is redemption in this context beautiful? How should the price of our redemption impact how we think about it?
6. In verses 7-8 Paul talks about the richness of God's grace. How would you describe the richness of God's grace to you specifically? How can we help others appreciate the richness of God's grace offered to them through the gospel?
7. Verses 8-10 describe the richness of God's grace toward those who believe. What do these verses tell us about the plan of God in Christ? How do these various factors impact your perspective on God's grace?
8. If all you knew of God was what we're told in Ephesians 1:7-10, what would you conclude about Him? From this description, what might be an appropriate response from us to God?

**Apply:** Have someone in your group read Psalm 32 aloud and then as a group respond in corporate prayer and praise in response to the beautiful truths that David illuminates for us.

**Pray:** Ask God for a deeper appreciation of His forgiveness. Ask for His help to fully walk in the new life we have in Christ.