ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS
When the Guilty Go Free

INTRODUCTION
Forgiveness. Perhaps no other topic has greater significance for the way we live now and where we'll live eternally.

- T – F  God doesn’t care what you believe as long as you’re sincere about it and try to be good.
- T – F  God is too loving to send anyone to hell.
- T – F  God will grade us on a curve. After all nobody’s perfect.
- T – F  It's possible to have been too bad to be forgiven.
- T – F  God promises forgiveness to all who repent and put their faith in Jesus.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

- Read 1 John 1:5-10. Who is without sin? ________________________________
  o What is the condition for being forgiven of sin? ________________________________
  o To whom is this promise made? (Hint: See 1:7) ________________________________
  o Is it possible to be forgiven of sin by confessing without having trusted in Jesus for salvation? Explain. ________________________________
  o What happens to the believer's sin when he confesses it? ________________________________
  o What happens when a lost person confesses sin apart from trusting Jesus? ________________________________

- Read Romans 4:25 and 5:1.
  o What does it mean to be justified? ________________________________
  o Webster's Dictionary says to be justified is to be pronounced free from guilt.
  o What is the basis for being justified? ________________________________
  o What is one of the results of being declared not guilty? ________________________________

- Read Isaiah 43:25. What motivates God to forgive sin? ________________________________

- Read Psalm 103:12. What happens to sin that God forgives? ________________________________

- Read Romans 6:22-23. Describe what happens in a believer’s life when he is forgiven of sin? ________________________________
• Read Romans 3:21-26. How can God say we’re not guilty when we’ve sinned? __

  o Hint: God’s justice is satisfied and we are declared right with him because of what Jesus did for us, not because of what we do for ourselves.

• What are some of the practical benefits of being justified in Christ?
  o Romans 5:1 __________
  o Romans 5:9 __________
  o Romans 5:10 __________
  o Romans 8:1 __________
  o Romans 8:16 __________
  o Romans 8:33 __________
  o Romans 8:37-39 __________
  o 1 Corinthians 10:13 __________

THE BELIEVER AND SIN

• What does God expect from the believer when he’s faced with temptation?
  o 1 Corinthians 10:13 __________
  o 2 Timothy 2:22 __________

• What are the potential effects of sin in the life of the justified believer?
  o Psalm 66:18 __________
  o Romans 6:11-13 __________
  o 1 Corinthians 3:18-19 __________
  o 1 Corinthians 8:12 __________
  o Galatians 5:7-9 __________
  o Ephesians 4:29 __________
  o Ephesians 4:30 __________

YOU CAN BE SURE

• Based on what you have studied, who can be sure that they are forgiven? __________

• Does this describe you? Explain. __________________________________________________________________________

• If you have repented and put your faith in Jesus, God has already forgiven you and declared you not guilty.
  o Take some time right now to voice a prayer to God expressing how you feel based on this truth.
  o As a follower of Jesus, you are called to victory over temptation and sin through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in you. Will you commit yourself to cooperating with the Holy Spirit as he leads you toward a life that honors Jesus? __________

• If you aren’t sure that God has declared you not guilty, will you turn from your sin and ask Jesus to come into your life and give you the promise of forgiveness? __________

MEMORIZE: 1 John 1:9