

**\*\*READ THE TEXT\*\***

**INTRO-**

*Introductory Illustration*

- The great Puritan preacher & author JOHN BUNYAN wrote of his own salvation in an autobiographical account (*Grace Abounding to the Chief*):
  - One day as I was passing into the field...this sentence fell upon my soul → **Your righteousness is in heaven.** And...I saw with the eyes of my soul Jesus Christ at God’s right hand; there, I say, was my righteousness; so that wherever I was, or whatever I was doing, God could not say of me, he [lacks] my righteousness, for that was right before him [in Christ!].
  - I also saw, moreover, that it was not my good frame of heart that made my righteousness better, nor yet my bad frame that made my righteousness worse, **for my righteousness was Jesus Christ himself**, “The same yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8).
  - Now did my chains fall off my legs indeed. I was loosed from my afflictions and irons; my temptations also fled away... now went I also home rejoicing for the grace and love of God.
    - This God of forgiveness, gracious & compassionate gives a full pardon to all who repent & believe!
- **Neh 9.17 - But You are a God of forgiveness...**
  - Forgiveness is God’s eternal promise of pardon.
  - Forgiveness is God’s choice to not hold our sins against us.
  - Forgiveness is God purifying us guilty ones by laying our guilt on the Pure One.
  - Forgiveness is God’s safeguard to protect us from spiritual ruin.
  - Hear this: The pardoned soul is out of the gunshot of hell (Thomas Watson)
- God’s Forgiveness is...
  - ✓ **Extensive** -- covers all your sin
  - ✓ **Immediate** -- covers it now; grants it immediately, at the moment a sinner confesses!
  - ✓ **Promised** -- God promises to cover it; he never drudges up your past against you.
  - ✓ **Gracious** -- cannot earn it; simply ask; it’s a gift, an undeserved grace-gift.
  - ✓ **Powerful** -- He chooses to not hold your sins against you
  - ✓ **Transforming** -- it changes you so you live for Him
  - ✓ **Exemplary** -- teaches us how to forgive others who sin against us
  - ✓ **Propitiatory** -- it all comes from & flows thru & glorifies Christ! >>> **Let’s study this today...**

### *Background to Psalm 130*

- Ps 130 is part of the *Psalms of Ascent* -- a group of 15 psalms that pilgrims would recite & sing *traveling to Jerusalem for the 3 pilgrimage festivals* (Passover, Tabernacles, Pentecost)
  - This was one of Martin Luther's favorite psalms & he called it "**The Proper Master & Doctor of Scripture**" --B/c the psalm teaches us the basic truths of the gospel.
  - We learn about the character of God, the heinousness of our sin, the certainty of judgment, and the lavishness of God's forgiveness as it is found in the wonderful & terrible event of the Cross! **Justice & Mercy Kissed to provide Your Forgiveness!**
- \*\*Think about how instructive this is [BIG PICTURE] = the psalmist is a pilgrim along with many others gathering to worship in the Lord's house! And note the divinely-profound, man-abasing, God-exalting, soul-enriching truths of the gospel!
  - Let us prepare -- before arriving -- for worship well! Prepare to approach God's House!
- A few things about the **overview/structure**:
  - begins **individual lament** - I have cried...
  - ends with **corporate redemption** -- He redeems Israel....
    - begins with the recognition of **my vile sin**
    - ends with the realization of **God's plenteous redemption**

**THESIS** — The essence of the gospel pervades this hymn. **This is God's Gospel. And we'll see it in (4) \*FOUR\* headings.** Ps 130 is about Forgiveness -- God's forgiveness! It's the heart of the gospel: how can GOD forgive sinners who stand 'guilty'!

#### ***This is God's Gospel:***

\*God is the theme, the climax, the centerpoint, the nucleus, the hub, the sun, the point, the apex of it all!

NOTE what we learn about our GOD.

WITH GOD there is FORGIVENESS (v.4a)

WITH GOD there is LOVINGKINDNESS (v.7)

WITH GOD there is ABUNDANT REDEMPTION (v.7b)

#### **I. REPENTANCE! (1-2)**

- A. As J. Edwards put it: "repentance is humiliation of sin before God!"
- B. Sin takes us low to the depths. Sin is anti-God. Sin is rebellion against God, an affront to His character, the slight of His holiness, the opposition to God's goodness & the revolt against God's sovereignty. ***We have sinned!*** Do you see the horror, depth of your sin?
  1. The fact that OUR SIN is so bad is what makes the GOSPEL so good!
- C. The blackness of our vile iniquities is what makes the diamond of Christ's forgiveness sparkle in such a dazzling wonder! Keep calling on God! Never fail to crawl to Christ's mercy seat!

## II. FORGIVENESS! (3-4)

- A. For all the unsaved, judgment will be by works: Rev 22.12 & Matt 7!
1. V.3 - IF GOD kept/marked/gathered together **all our iniquities** (it means: “twistedness”, crooked, something that revolts)
  2. Who could stand (Nah 1:6; Rev 6:16-17; Ps 76.7)
- B. V.4 - **“BUT” with you!** -- word used only of *GOD* forgiving sinners -- wiping out, covering, removing sin, pardons it, erases it (Ps 86:5!)
1. In God’s heart is an ever-flowing deluge/waterfall of divine love & mercies & pardon ready to be showed down upon His repentant ones!
    - a) God is a FOUNTAIN of forgiveness & grace. Christ’s precious blood washes every stain of guilt & His righteousness casts out all defilements (1 John 2.12!)
- C. Our salvation is not in our righteousness nor in our faith but in the **strong & mighty OBJECT** of our faith -- Jesus Christ!
1. Bunyan said: “it was not my good frame of heart that made my righteousness better, nor yet my bad frame that made my righteousness worse; for my righteousness was Jesus Christ Himself... -- this is the ground of our forgiveness & the ground of our justification -- Christ & Him alone! > Have you been forgiven? Is this true of YOU? Come today!

## III. CONFIDENCE! (5-6)

- A. **Forgiveness leads to confidence & active FAITH & pursuit of God!** (v.5-6!)
1. Comprehensive -- *my soul*...
  2. Active -- *wait*...
  3. Word-based -- *in His Word*...
  4. Anticipatory -- *more than watchmen*...
- B. *This hope is PATIENT TRUST and confident expectation that God will fulfill His Word. To wait on God is to actively scour His Word, serve in His strength, and believe for His restoration! Waiting is never passive but always aggressive & active in obedience & prayerful study.*

## IV. WITNESS! (7-8)

- All who are forgiven, are confident & are privileged w/ the duty to witness/call out!
- A. **Proclaim Courageously!** O Israel! [*direct address*]
- B. **Proclaim Clearly!**
1. The idea of **redeem** [יָדָה] speaks of achieving the transfer of ownership from one to another through the payment of a price. **What a full redemption -- “abundant!”**
  2. **Glory in this!** *Christ* has redeemed us (Eph 1.7) from the eternal damning curse of the Law (Gal 3.13) **with** His spotless blood (1 Pet 1.18) & is **Himself** the fullness of our redemption (1 Cor 1.30) & it is an ‘**eternal** redemption (Heb 9.12).
    - a) So we glory in the fact that Christ has redeemed our souls from going to the pit (Job 33.28). Praise Jesus Christ! He saves us from our sins (Matt 1.21)! Worship!

## CONCL-

### *Concluding Illustration*

- John Bunyan, also in his autobiographical work about God's saving of his soul, he wrote:
  - "I observed that, although I was such a great sinner before conversion, God never burdened me heavily with the guilt of sins committed while I was in ignorance. He only showed me that I was lost if I did not have Christ because I had been a sinner. I saw that I needed a perfect righteousness to present me without fault before God, and this righteousness was nowhere to be found but in the person of Jesus Christ.
  - **May Bunyan's testimony be YOUR testimony: forgiveness ONLY in Christ! > Amen!**