

As Far as the East is From the West
Ps 103:11-12 (Ps 103:1-18)
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what the Bible says about God's forgiveness.

Intro: 1. God's forgiveness still draws questions today.

2. How many times will God forgive us?

3. Can I sin so much that God will not forgive me when I repent?

I. False ideas concerning forgiveness (**1 John 1:7, Ps 103:10**).

A. If I sin again God will not forgive me.

1. Forgiveness is freely given by God (**Matt 18:21-22**).

2. Satan and the world want you to think that your sins make you too evil for God.

B. To be like Christ wants me to be means I must be perfect (**Rom 3:23**).

1. Man cannot be perfect, but man can be blameless (**Job 1:1,5**).

2. Man is blameless when he repents and strives to abstain from sin. This doesn't mean that he won't fall over and over but he strives to overcome his faults.

C. Asking for forgiveness publicly is a sign of weakness (**James 5:16a**).

1. God sees a humble person who asks for forgiveness and strength as person who will be exalted for their willingness to confess their faults (**James 4:10**).

2. If one sins it requires repentance, if one sins publicly it requires public repentance (**1 Jn 1:9, 1 Tim 5:20**)

II. God's forgiveness means our sins do not remain (**Ps 79:8a, Ps 103:11-12**)

A. When God forgives sins our sins are full removed (**Isa 1:18**).

1. True repentance means true forgiveness from God.

2. God's forgiveness means our sins are removed.

B. Just because our past mistakes still linger in our mind doesn't mean God hasn't forgiven you.

1. Our past errors can haunt us, this is a tool that can be used by Satan.

2. Satan has many lies and one is that God won't forget your mistakes.

III. The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in Mercy (**Ps 103:8-11**)

A. The Lord gives all time to repent even the extreme wicked.

1. God gave Cain, Sodom and Gomorrah, those before the flood and others time to repent.

2. As long as we are breathing we have a chance to be forgiven.

B. God is willing to forgive there is not doubt, but we must be willing to repent (**Ps 103:13**)

1. The question isn't if God will forgive.

2. The question is are you willing to repent and strive to be the Christian you ought to be.

- Conc:
1. The Lord is willing to forgive if we are willing to repent.
 2. There is no end to God's forgiveness for those who sincerely love the Lord
(**1 Jn 1:7**).
 3. Invitation