

Colossians Series

Lesson #43

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Dean Bible Ministries

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A landscape photograph showing a field of bare trees in the foreground, a line of trees in the middle ground, and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

COLOSSIANS: Jesus Christ is All-Sufficient

**The Gospel
of Forgiveness**

Colossians 2:12–14



Col. 2:11, “and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

Col. 2:12, “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Col. 2:13, “When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

Col. 2:14, “having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Col. 2:15, “When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”

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Col. 2:12, “having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Col. 2:13, “When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven [because He had already graciously canceled] all our transgressions,

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Col. 2:15, “When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”

**2:12 “In Him [no “and”] you were baptized [at faith in Christ]
[when] you were buried with Him in baptism
in [by] which you were raised together with Him**

2:13

**“And you being dead [when you were dead]
in your trespasses and uncircumcision of the
flesh**

He made you alive together with Him [main verb Aor]

**[by, or when or because] He forgave you all
trespasses**

2:14

**“[because] he had canceled... when he took it...
when he nailed it to the cross.”**

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He made you alive together with Him [main verb Aor tense]
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“[because] he had canceled... when he took it...
when he nailed it to the cross”

The Words for “Forgive”

ἀφίημι v. (*aphiēmi*), “let go, cancel, remit, leave, forgive”

ἄφεσις n. (*aphesis*), “release, pardon, cancellation, forgiveness”

Emphasizes the *act* of forgiveness

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Emphasizes the *act* of forgiveness

χαρίζομαι (*charizomai*), show favour or kindness, give as a favour, to be gracious to someone, to pardon;

Emphasizes the *attitude* underlying forgiveness.

Eph. 1:7, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

Col. 1:14, “in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Eph. 1:7, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness [*aphesis*] of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

Col. 1:14, “in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness [*aphesis*] of sins.”

ἀπολύτρωσις (*apolytrōsis*), redemption, deliverance, release

FOUR Categories of Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness directed toward God, where the justice of God cancels the debt of sin. For all mankind without distinction.

Col. 2:13, “And you, [when you were] dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, [BECAUSE He canceled] all [the legal guilt of your] trespasses,

Col. 2:14, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

Understanding the TWO aspects of Forgiveness: Godward and Personal

Acts 13:38, “Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins;

Acts 13:39, “and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

Acts 13:38–39,

“Therefore let it be known to you, male brothers, that through this One forgiveness of sin is announced to you and from all things which you were not able to be declared righteous by the law of Moses, by this One All who believe are declared righteous.”

Acts 26:18, “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”

Acts 26:18, “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, with the result that they receive forgiveness of sins and the inheritance among those who are set apart by faith in Me.”

Eph. 1:7, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness [*aphesis*] of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

Col. 1:14, “in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness [*aphesis*] of sins.”

ἀπολύτρωσις (*apolytrōsis*), redemption, deliverance, release

Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

λύτρωσις (*apolytrōsis*), ransom

1 Tim. 2:5, “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

1 Tim. 2:6, “who gave Himself *a ransom* for all, to be testified in due time,”

**ἀντίλυτρον *antilutron* acc neut sing
ransom, the substitutionary payment**

Rom. 5:10, “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

2 Cor. 5:18, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,”

2 Cor. 5:19, “that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

Col. 1:20, “and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”

2 Cor. 5:20, “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

FOUR Categories of Forgiveness

- 1. Forgiveness directed toward God, where the justice of God cancels the debt of sin. For all mankind without distinction. *Forensic Forgiveness***
- 2. Forgiveness positionally *in Christ*. Forgiveness personally realized at the moment of salvation. Eph. 1:7; Col. 2:14**
- 3. Experiential forgiveness. 1 John 1:9**
- 4. Relational forgiveness. Eph. 4:32**