

## **ONLY OUR GOD FORGIVES**

**Micah 7:18-19      Jeremiah 10:23**

**Introduction:** Of all the faiths and beliefs of mankind through the centuries no one was ever responded to by the god or gods they worshipped no matter what was brought as a gift or done to one's body hoping to prove devotion, or even by throwing their children into a fire as an offering. There was never a response whatsoever from the image or images they worshipped. How different for those who believe in Jehovah God for He has revealed Himself to those called Jews and then sent His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to earth to die in such a way that forgiveness could be given to those who would believe in His Son and thus be brought into His Family as His Children and to be called Christians. Forgiveness is what all mankind has been trying to get from the gods of the many faiths and beliefs through history but never received. Only the one, real, true God, Jehovah God, the God of Israel, the God of the Christian can and will forgive the believer.

### **I. ONLY OUR GOD, JEHOVAH, IS THE ONLY REAL, LIVING GOD**

1. Our God is incomparable, for who can forgive sin but our God?
2. Forgiveness is contrary to the nature of all things with which we are acquainted.
  - Break any laws of health and "punishment" follows.
  - Nature shows no mercy, thus no forgiveness there.
3. Society and the world do not forgive.
  - Break the law of the land and there is punishment.
  - People have an unforgiving spirit.
  - People remember hurts received long ago.
4. What is impossible for nature, society, man, memory is possible for God.
  - "Who can forgive sins but God" were hurled at Jesus, having no idea who He was.
  - Jesus talked about forgiveness of sins and His coming, His life, His death, all these were proofs of the forgiveness of God, flowing like a river of love toward those who had sinned against Him.

### **II. OUR GOD'S FORGIVENESS IS COMPLETE**

1. Nobody but God is capable of complete, total forgiveness.
  - He says His forgiveness is like taking our sins and casting them into the depths of the sea.
  - In a way our forgiven sins sink to the bottom of the sea like heavy stones.
  - Our sins will never wash up on some distant shore to accuse or condemn us again.
2. When God forgives us our sins, He forgets them completely.
  - Someone said it was like a burial at sea - nothing to mark the grave and it would be out of sight for ever. Our sins are gone forever once forgiven by our God.

### **III. FORGIVENESS OF SINS IS NOT ALL OUR GOD DOES**

1. Forgiveness is but the foundation upon which salvation rests.
2. Forgiveness does not necessarily change a person's character or nature.
  - A thief is not made honest upon being forgiven.
  - A drunkard is not made sober upon being forgiven.
  - A forgiven murderer does not bring back the life that has been taken.
3. Forgiveness is the beginning, the prelude, the initial step in God's wonderful purpose to morally change a person, giving a new life.
  - God is not only "faithful and just to forgive us our sins," but also to "cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - Forgiveness deals with the past. What comes next is the power for the forgiven believer for the present and future.
  - Our God can and does deliver people from the power of sin. It is a promised experience to all who trust in His Son Jesus Christ and yields to Him.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Deliverance from sin is not brought about by external applications of do's and don'ts but by a new life and power to live that new life.
2. The Gospel is not a system of "don't do this and do that." It is a new life of freedom.
3. Our God who forgives, also establishes and maintains a new way of life for the believer.
4. There is no real, true God but our God and there is but one way to our God and that is through forgiveness and salvation which come through one's belief and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ.