

Forgiveness – is it cheap?

See the cost of God's forgiveness – Christ himself “suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.” 1 Peter 3.18.

First, *his forgiveness is never reversible*. Some are afraid that God will lose patience with them and cancel his forgiveness. But if forgiveness is later withdrawn, then it was never forgiveness in the first place. God's promise to believers is, “he will never let the righteous fall.” Psalm 55.22 (NIV).

Second, *his forgiveness is never resourceless*. Greater than ever sin is met by greater than ever forgiveness. Jesus Christ “is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through him.” Hebrews 7.25.

Third, *his forgiveness is never deserved*. God is under no obligation to us. None of us deserves to enter into God's presence in heaven. His forgiveness is totally unmerited.

Fourth, *God's forgiveness is never frivolous*. How could a righteous God forgive human wickedness? It is one of the most difficult things he has ever had to do.

It is hard to forgive. It is even harder to forget. But God does both! He says, “I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” Jeremiah 31.34.

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