

Forgiveness so vast!

Four aspects of God's far reaching forgiveness

How wonderful is God's forgiveness.

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 But if forgiveness is later withdrawn, then it was never forgiveness in the first place.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. The Bible promise is that 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. Some people may think they deserve heaven because of their good living, good works, and noble deeds. But "the old sinful nature within us is against God. It never did obey God's laws and it never will." Romans 8.7 (Living Bible). The truth is, therefore, that God's forgiveness is totally unmerited.

Fourth, God's forgiveness is never frivolous. How could a righteous God forgive human wickedness? It is the most difficult thing he has ever had to do. But since he is our only hope, we had better believe it, and realise what his offer of forgiveness really means.

* * *

It's hard to forgive. It's 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.

Ken Packer