

Sermon Notes – “The Assurance of Forgiveness, Part I”
(November 20, 2022)

Sermon Text: Romans 7:14-25 & Matthew 26:20,26-28

Memory Verse: “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out, so that you can stand up under it.” **I Corinthians 10:13**

(Chapter 3)

(Chapter 4) “But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **I John 1:9** (RSV)

Introduction: A fourth assurance from God to His children is that of **forgiveness of sins**. Sin can be and often is a **stumbling block** in our relationship with God. But **God recognizes this** and **provides a way for dealing with it** through the Cross of Christ. For this gracious gift of forgiveness, we ought to feel and express deep gratitude.

Focus Question: *How do you feel about approaching God and confessing your sin?*

I. The Reality of Life in this World (Romans 7:14-15,21-25)

- Paul, using himself as an example, demonstrates that even believers sin. (vs. 15)
- All believers need **rehabilitation** from **momentary lapses** in their obedience.
- This rehabilitation comes only through our Lord Jesus Christ. (vs. 25)

II. Connecting Forgiveness with Thanksgiving (Matthew 26:20,26-28)

- Jesus gives thanks **not just for physical bread**, but for **spiritual bread**.
- **Mercy** is **spiritual bread ... the “daily bread”** prayed for by Jesus in Matt. 6:11.
- God’s everflowing forgiveness through Jesus ought to **evoke in us deep gratitude**.

III. Practicing Gratitude

- Three prayer questions:
 - *With what good things has God blessed my life?*
 - *In what ways has God walked with me and assisted me through my trials?*
 - *What sins has God forgiven and helped me overcome?*

Faith Challenge: *At your thanksgiving meal with family this year, volunteer to give the blessing before the meal. Shape your prayer around the three questions mentioned above.*