

Sermon Title: **“FORGIVEN”**

Ephesians 1:3-14

- “Wrongdoings” = Trespasses; offenses; faults; misdeeds; sins
(this involves BOTH unintentional error & willful wickedness)
- In order to see the value in Forgiveness, we NEED to see what we are Forgiven of in the first place
- We DON’T have to face the looming wrath of God. In Christ there’s Redemption & in Christ there’s Forgiveness
- “Forgiveness” (in Ephesians 1:7) = to let go; to release; to send away
 - In Christ ALL our debt has been cancelled
 - In Christ there’s NO more payments (it is finished)
 - In Christ we are free & clear (it’s ALL been taken care of on our behalf)
- Jesus was associating with “tax collectors & sinners.” But the Religious Leaders looked their noses down at Jesus for doing this
- “Parable = an every day life story, which conveys a Biblical Truth
- his guy has 100 sheep & he lost just one (Luke 15:4-7)
 - This guy DOESN’T rest until he finds that one
- A woman has 10 silver coins & she lost just one (Luke 15:8-10)
 - That woman lights a lamp, sweeps the house, & carefully searches ALL over the place until she finds that one coin
- The father divides up 1/3 of everything he’s ever accumulated & the father gives it to his younger son (Luke 15:11-16)
 - “Squandered” = threw away
 - “Wild Living” = literally translated “unsaved living” it’s actually where we get the idea of the term “Prodigal Son”
 - “Prodigal” = wasteful; reckless (this son was BOTH)
- “Hired himself” = he glued himself; he adhered himself (he had basically sold himself to this foreigner in a strange land)
 - This Jewish young man had gone that far to associate with pigs
(& NOT only that, but he longed for the pig slop)
- It took this son to hit rock bottom (he experienced hard times), but that’s what brought him to a place to see his condition
- In EVERY way, the son had been restored (Forgiven)
- If you have confessed your sin to God, He Forgives you
 - When we refuse to accept that & continue to wallow in Shame & Guilt, we’ve minimized what Christ did for us
 - The moment you ask to be Forgiven, you have been Forgiven
(so live in that reality, which is found in Christ)