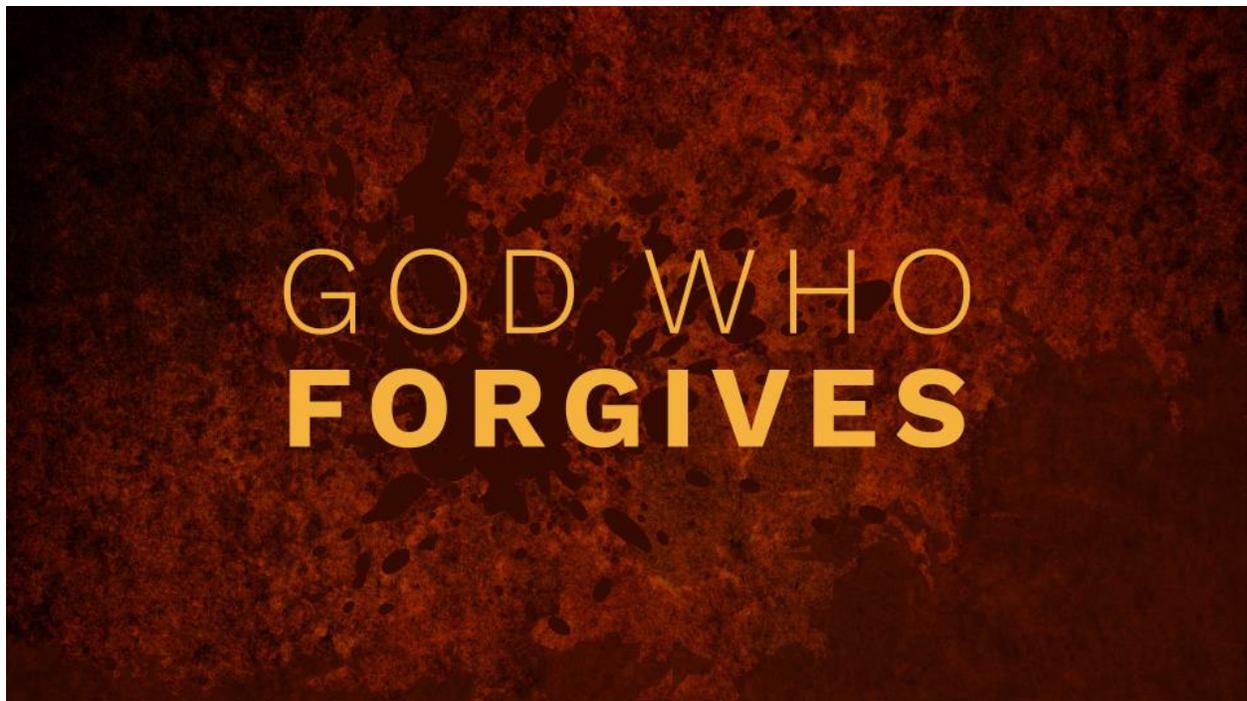


GOD WHO FORGIVES

Through Christ's blood, God faithfully and justly pardons our sins, not holding them against us.

SCRIPTURE*	MUSIC†
Psalm 51 Psalm 103:3 Psalm 103 Jeremiah 31:31-34 Luke 5:17-26 Luke 7:36-50 Luke 11:2-4 Ephesians 4:31-32 1 John 1:8-2:2	Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed And Can It Be At the Cross Before the Throne of God Above Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy Free from Guilt and Free from Sin (Hall) SATB Grace Greater than Our Sin Just as I Am Nothing but the Blood of Jesus The Power of the Cross Rock of Ages Whiter than Snow



NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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* Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

† Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

THE WORST THING YOU'VE DONE

Luke 7:40–47 | *What is the worst thing God has forgiven you for? How much have you been forgiven? A lot, or a little? Some people think they aren't that bad. This could be harder for those saved younger, but they have been saved from a life trajectory of sin. The more realistic view we have of our sin, the more we worship God for what He has forgiven. But we shouldn't wallow in guilt; focusing on our sinfulness. The proper worship response to the awareness of how much God has forgiven is love.*

If you are a child of God today, if you've trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, God has forgiven you for ALL YOUR SIN. In the court of God's judgment, you are free and clear - no sin record - NONE!

How does that make you feel? How grateful and loving are you?

In Luke 7 Jesus gives an example of someone who was EXTREMELY grateful for God's forgiveness, giving us an example of what our response should be.

Jesus is eating at the home of Simon the Pharisee. After Jesus sat down a woman came in and began to express her extreme love for Jesus. She washed his feet with her hair and her tears. She kissed his feet continually. She anointed him with very expensive ointment.

And the Pharisee was actually bothered by Jesus allowing such a sinner to show this extreme act of emotion, this extreme act of love.

Jesus then rebukes Simon.

Luk 7:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. 41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence (500 days of wages), and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? 43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

Luk 7:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

Now from other passages we realize that Simon did not “sin little.” The Pharisees had heart sins, were very hypocritical, going through religious motions for personal gain and for self glory. The Pharisees were terrible sinners. BUT THEY DID NOT SEE IT. And because of that, they “loved God little.” They thought that they DESERVED God’s blessings because they thought they were righteous.

Are you like the Pharisees, with a cold heart, not really realizing the magnitude of God’s forgiveness shown to you personally?

OR do you have an ACCURATE view of your sins? And you are tremendously relieved and grateful for God’s forgiveness, for the fact you, yourself, won’t have to pay for those sins in hell? In God’s judgment hall, you have NO sin record.

The old song says Gone, gone, gone, gone, yes my sins are gone. Now my soul is free and in my heart’s a song. Do you have a song in your heart today because of how MUCH God has forgiven you?

Worship the God who forgives – forgives ALL your sins, for eternity, Never to hold them against you again. (Pastor Mark French)

Promotional Post: How much have you been forgiven? A lot or a little? We easily underestimate our own sinfulness. We forget how grateful we ought to be for the forgiveness of God.

Join us Sunday to remember and worship the God Who Forgives us. These passages will help you prepare to worship:

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]