

I John 1,2; Lord's Day 21
FAITH IN THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

- I. What it is.
 - A. Sin is rebellion against God and His personal desires and requirements (I John 3:4b).
 - 1. Sin is any thought, word or action committed against God.
 - 2. Sin proceeds from a corrupt nature (q. 56), the depravity which always cleaves to us (q. 126), our old man of sin.
 - B. Correct knowledge of God and of sin.
 - C. Forgiveness means that God declares:
 - 1. The punishment has been completely endured and there is nothing left.
 - 2. Further, God declares me to be righteous and worthy of eternal life.
- II. How is the forgiveness of sins made possible?
 - A. Only God can forgive because:
 - 1. Every sin is committed against Him (Ps. 51:4; Mk. 2:7).
 - 2. Only He can determine the sufficiency of the satisfaction and whether it is accepted.
 - B. Forgiveness is when God's justice accepts the satisfaction and righteousness.
 - C. The method by which forgiveness is applied is imputation (justification).
 - 1. The legal consequences of Jesus' perfect atoning work are transferred to our account before God.
 - 2. And His life of perfect, loving obedience fulfilled all of our obligations to God's commandments is transferred to us.
 - D. The only basis for forgiveness is God's great and amazing grace.
 - E. The extent of forgiveness: our acquittal is complete, our salvation is eternally sure; to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25).
- III. The fruit of God's work of forgiving us.
 - A. Everyone of the sins of every believer is forgiven, without exception.
 - B. Forgiveness is experienced by faith in the Christ proclaimed by the church in the preaching of the gospel.
 - C. Receiving God's forgiving grace we gratefully strive to live according to all God's commandments by loving Him with our all.