

things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

**Hebrews 9:14**—How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**The Message, 2 Corinthians 13:14**—The amazing grace of the Master Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.



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# CHARIZOMAI

## *Understanding the Prevenient Forgiveness of God*

**THEISM 1:** There is confusion today concerning how to be truly set free from our past. Much of this confusion comes as a result of not understanding the prevenient forgiveness of God.

**Romans 2:4**—Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

**1 John 1:9**—If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**THEISM 2:** Sin creates a psychological and emotional state within us called guilt or condemnation.

**Isaiah 59:2**—But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

**Romans 2:15**— . . . in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them . . .

**1 Samuel 24:5**—It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.

**THEISM 3:** God longs to liberate us from the psychological and emotional effects of our sin. Forgiveness, when discussed in this context, is defined as a change in us—a removal of and thus a liberation from the guilt we carry as a result of our shortcomings.

**Psalms 86:5**—For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive (salach—related to nasa, which refers to the removal of the guilt and condemnation produced by our sin), and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.

**Isaiah 55:7**—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon (salach).

“God is Love.” —1 John 4:8

\*All Scripture References are from the updated New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.

**NKJ Nehemiah 9:17**—They refused to obey, and they were not mindful of Your wonders that You did among them. But they hardened their necks, and in their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage. But You are God, ready to pardon (root: salach), gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness, and did not forsake them.

**1 John 1:9**—If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive (apheimi, removal of guilt from one’s own psyche) us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**THEISM 4:** The Bible also speaks of another dimension of forgiveness that does not occur in the experience of the violator, but rather in the heart of those against whom the wrong has been committed, i.e., the violated.

**2 Corinthians 2:7**—So that on the contrary you should rather forgive (charizomai: letting go of ill feelings toward those who have wronged you) and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

**2 Corinthians 2:10**—But one whom you forgive (charizomai) anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ.

**2 Corinthians 12:13**—For in what respect were you treated as inferior to the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not become a burden to you? Forgive (charizomai) me this wrong!

**THEISM 5:** In the context of our transgressions against God, the dimension of forgiveness that occurs in God’s heart (the violated one), the Bible states, precedes our repentance and confession toward Him.

**Ephesians 4:32**—Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven (charizomai) you.

**Colossians 3:13**—Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave (charizomai) you, so also should you.

**Colossians 2:13**—When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven (charizomai) us all our transgressions.

**NKJ 1 John 3:20**—For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

**Matthew 6:14-15**—“For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

**John 8:10**—Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?”

**THEISM 6:** A belief in the prevenient grace of our God finds its source at the Cross.

**Luke 22:60-62**—Immediately, while [Peter] was still speaking, a rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered. . . . And he went out and wept bitterly.

**NLT Luke 22:21**—“But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray Me.”

**Matthew 26:28**—“This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.”

**Matthew 26:27**—And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.”

**Luke 23:33-34**—When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him. . . . But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive (apheimi) them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

**THEISM 7:** Thus we see that Repentance, Confession, and Faith are not the means by which we convince God to let go of any condemnation He has for us; but rather, they are the God-given agencies whereby God seeks to liberate us from our sense of guilt and shame.

**Genesis 3:8-10**—They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord. . . . “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid.”

**Proverbs 28:1**—The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

**1 Peter 3:21**—[In Noah’s day eight persons were brought safely through the water.] Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 9:22**—And according to the Law, one may almost say [that] all