

“Putting Your Past in the Past”
July 1, 2018

Psalm 25:8-10, 14-15

“Secrets”- *“to sit together; to confide in—in order to establish/settle”*
“Covenant”- *“connection at the deepest level”*

CORE: In the secret place, the LORD *“makes known His covenant”* to establish us in the reality of just how connected we are.

1. He addresses the TWO ROOT CAUSES OF DISCONNECTION

- **SIN**- (Psalm 25:8) *chatta—“to miss the way; to forfeit”*
 - **He gets involved:**
 - **INSTRUCTS**- put new structure in; (Heb.) *“to cause to flow in a new direction”*
 - **GUIDES**- leads
 - **TEACHES**- exercise (“disciple” & “discipline” same root; learn to say, “No!” to ways that miss the Way)
 - (v. 10) *“ALL the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful (truth)”*
- **LIES**- (v. 15) *“snare”*
 - Traps laid strategically in order to:
 - Seize us (immobilize; keep us from making progress)
 - Rob us of our inheritance (impoverish)
 - Ruin us (i.e., *rob, kill, destroy*)

NOTE: HS convicts us of sin—so we confess sin (*w/o shame or blame*)→ THEN He is *“faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9)

NOTE: Forgiven—He displaces lies by *“establishing us in truth”* (2 Peter 1:12).

Here are some **TRUTHS He ESTABLISHES US IN:**

2. WE ARE FORGIVEN & ACCEPTED BY GOD

Jeremiah 31:33,34

Jesus died AS US—to remove sin FROM US—paying the price FOR US!
(something we could never do for ourselves!) (Why *“Worthy”* is eternal song)!

- Knowing this is the beginning of living in victory!
 - **Condemnation** won’t paralyze us
 - **Unworthiness** won’t stop us from being blessed & blessing others

- “Forgiveness” in English means paying a debt (yet, keeping a ledger)
- “Forgiveness” in NT means “to send away; totally remove” (*aphiemi*)
 - Jesus yielded up (*aphiemi*) His spirit (Matthew 27:50)
 - He came to “set at liberty (*aphiemi*) all who are oppressed.” (Luke 4:18)
 - Insert the phrase “free from sin” when you read “forgiven.”
 - “The Lamb...takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)—the word “sin” means “sin’s power to rule over us!”

This was a song sung by the early church: “He has rescued us completely from the tyrannical rule of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom realm of his beloved Son. For in the Son all our sins are canceled and we have the release of redemption through his very blood.” (Colossians 1:13,14 TPT)

Yet, FORGIVENESS IS COSTLY (Jesus “paid the price” Galatians 3:14)!

NOTE: He paid every condition to give us “unconditional love”!

Jesus told 2 stories about forgiveness.

- **Matthew 18**- King forgiving servant of impossible debt
 - The king died to his right to expect repayment
 - In forgiveness, someone always pays (“Forgive our debts”)
- **Luke 15**- Father forgiving & reconciling with his “lost” son
 - “Lost”- something of great value that is greatly missed
 - **The father paid dearly for his son’s forgiveness**
 - He gave up years of receiving his son’s love
 - He lost the respect of the village
 - He lost his relationship with city elders

We, like the servant and the son in these 2 stories, have a choice to make.

1. (Matt. 18) Servant did not receive forgiveness/acceptance→ became a giver of condemnation, shame, and rejection to others
2. (Luke 15) Son received his father’s costly gift of forgiveness—refusing his older (religious) brother’s unrelenting, condemning punishment→joining with his father’s celebration of love and faithfulness (putting his past in the past)!