

## REFLECTIONS ON “Forgive Us Our Debts”

(Rev. William Harrell)

One of the things we are taught to pray for, as a petition to the throne of God’s grace, is forgiveness. Jesus tells us to ask God to: Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. We do well, therefore, not only to ask forgiveness of our God, but also to understand that for which we are asking. It is too easy for us to have vague and weak notions of forgiveness, and such notions undermine our apprehension of the precious potency of that forgiveness that we receive from God as well as the forgiveness that we give to those who have sinned against us.

A simple definition of the verb, to forgive, is to give away a right. The right arises from an injurious offense that one person receives from another. The injury gives the offended party the right, in accordance with the dictates of justice, to collect payment for damages suffered. The one who forgives relinquishes his right to receive such payment that is due to him from the party that offended him. It takes but a moment’s reflection upon this definition for us to sense how costly forgiveness is to the one who gives it.

**West SC:** Quest. 105. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

Ans. 105. In the fifth petition (which is, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors)(1) we pray, That God, for Christ’s sake, would freely pardon all our sins;(2) which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.(3)

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## LORD’S DAY EVENING WORSHIP

March 22, 2026



### GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Salutation**

**Call to Worship**

### GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

\* **Opening Hymn**

*To God Be The Glory*  
# 55 *Trinity Hymnal* (all verses)

1 To God be the glory, great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that we may go in.

**Refrain:** Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he has done!

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood! To ev'ry believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives. **(Refrain)**

3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. **(Refrain)**

\* **Invocation**

**God’s Law & Assurance of Pardon**

Psalm 143 (p 620 pew Bible)

**Congregational Prayer**

## GOD SPEAKS HIS WORD TO HIS PEOPLE

### Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Readings

Matthew 6:5-13 (p 964 pew Bible)

Luke 7:36-50 (p 1027 pew Bible)

### Sermon

Forgive Us Our Debts as We Forgive Our Debtors (Part II)

### Prayer of Application

### \* Closing Hymn

*Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting*  
# 188 *Trinity Hymnal* (all verses)

1 Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what thou art;  
I am finding out the greatness of thy loving heart.  
Thou hast bid me gaze upon thee, as thy beauty fills my soul,  
for by thy transforming power, thou hast made me whole.

Refrain: Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what thou art;  
I am finding out the greatness of thy loving heart.

3 Simply trusting thee, Lord Jesus, I behold thee as thou art,  
and thy love, so pure, so changeless, satisfies my heart;  
satisfies its deepest longings, meets, supplies its ev'ry need,  
compasseth me round with blessings: thine is love indeed. [Refrain]

4 Ever lift thy face upon me as I work and wait for thee;  
resting 'neath thy smile, Lord Jesus, earth's dark shadows flee.  
Brightness of my Father's glory, sunshine of my Father's face,  
keep me ever trusting, resting, fill me with thy grace. [Refrain] \*\*

### \* Benediction

\*Please stand if able

\*\* by permission, Great Commission Publications

## “Everlasting Consolation” from Forgiveness of Sin

Charles Spurgeon (Aug 11th Evening Devotional, “Morning and Evening.”)

### 2 Thessalonians 2:16– *Everlasting Consolation*.

A Christian man has received in his heart the witness of the Spirit that his iniquities are put away like a cloud, and his transgressions like a thick cloud. If sin be pardoned, is not that an everlasting consolation?

Next, the Lord gives His people an abiding sense of acceptance in Christ. The Christian knows that God looks upon him as standing in union with Jesus. Union to the risen Lord is a consolation of the most abiding order; it is, in fact, everlasting. Let sickness prostrate us, have we not seen hundreds of believers as happy in the weakness of disease as they would have been in the strength of hale and blooming health? Let death's arrows pierce us to the heart, our comfort dies not, for have not our ears full often heard the songs of saints as they have rejoiced because the living love of God was shed abroad in their hearts in dying moments? Yes, a sense of acceptance in the Beloved is an everlasting consolation.

Moreover, the Christian has a conviction of his security. God has promised to save those who trust in Christ: the Christian does trust in Christ, and he believes that God will be as good as His word, and will save him. He feels that he is safe by virtue of his being bound up with the person and work of Jesus.