

CHARIS CHRISTIAN CENTRE
SERMON- NOTES

DATE : 22 FEBRUARY, 2009
SPEAKER : REV. LEON SHEARER
TOPIC : **KINGDOM VALUE: FORGIVENESS**
TEXT : PSALM 103: 1 – 5

Psalm 103 is a psalm of praise & exhortation. Yet, to many of us, it is hard to praise God, maybe because of the circumstances and the crisis that you may be facing today. But know that we **serve the God who forgives all our sins and redeems us from the pits.** (v. 3-5)

- **Forgiveness means pardon. This is what Jesus did when He died for us on the cross at Calvary. Jesus said, "IT IS FINISHED!"** (Matt. 19:30)
- **Forgiveness is a gift from God to all who believe in Him and thus it is not something that we need to earn for.**

The definition of forgiveness is:

- **To be set free. (from anger, bitterness, guilt & condemnation)**
- **To let go! (the feeling of anger, offence, hurt & bitterness), whether they're past or present so that we will not continue to let these issues to haunt us & affect us.**

Receiving Forgiveness

- Have you received forgiveness? Do you still have the feeling of shame, guilt or condemnation? Or even there are times that we feel that we're justified to hold on to the baggages of bitterness, anger & offence.
- Forgiveness is the one of the fundamental value and principle of God's Kingdom. **Firstly, is important for us to know that forgiveness has to be a decision - that we have to make a decision on the issue of forgiveness.**
- The inability to forgive others and ourselves brings us into bondage.

The Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6: 9- 13)

- **Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your Name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we also have forgiven those who have sinned against us.
And lead us not into temptations,
But deliver us from all evils."**
- We all have said this prayer many times & many of us have often said it ritualistically. It is time that we all pause & ponder over this seriously as we said this prayer with special attention given to **verse 12**. Therefore, it is **hypocritical of us that we still harbour unforgiveness in our hearts while singing praises and worshipping God.**
- **Forgiveness is founded in GOD'S LOVE.** (2 Cor 2: 5 –13)

1 John 1: 7-9

- **Forgiveness has to be given as gift: a gift that is given out of love just as God gave us His only Son, Jesus Christ, for our sins & redemption of the world.**
- **To forgive means to accept the responsibility & consequences of someone's sins as in the hurts that are inflicted in us. We have to trust that our God heals and restores us. We will trust Him for He will vindicate us.**
- **This blessing will be upon us as we repent of the sins of harbouring offences, anger and unforgiveness. Alleluia!!!**