

## Deserved And Undeserved:

### A Look At Forgiveness

#### Romans 2:4-8

The Apostle Paul wrote, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23.) In our text for this lesson, Paul contrasts the one who is storing up wrath for themselves with the one who perseveres in doing good and seeks for glory and honor and immortality. (Romans 2:4-8.)

Without understanding concerning what sin is and how all deserve its punishment, we cannot truly understand what God's forgiveness truly is! The word forgiveness is defined as, "The action or process of forgiving or being forgiven." (Acts 7:60.)

Why does God contrast sin's deserved penalty with His underserved forgiveness in its thorough nature and how can a better understanding of how blessed we are to be forgiven serve us in our daily lives?

#### I. Why Does God Contrast Sin's Deserved Penalty With His Undeserved Forgiveness?

A. Let's consider some other contrasts that are often brought to our attention:

1. We cannot appreciate the light if we have not experienced the darkness.
2. We cannot appreciate pain relief if we haven't known pain.
3. We cannot understand joy and happiness if we have not experienced sadness.
4. We cannot appreciate the rain if we haven't known periods of drought.

B. Paul brought sin into the view of his readers so they could appreciate what God accomplished for them through His undeserved forgiveness! (I Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 2:1-7.)

C. Just as one cannot truly appreciate the refreshment that water gives without ever experiencing severe thirst, so one cannot appreciate how much they do not know about God's word until they hunger and thirst for it in an effort to be satisfied! (Matthew 5:6.)

D. When it comes to our sins, God had to thoroughly deal with them—not temporarily or

on a half way basis—so that we would come to truly appreciate what it means to actually be FORGIVEN! (Ephesians 1:7, 8; Hebrews 10:17, 18.)

## II. How Can A Better Understanding Of How Blessed We Are To Be Forgiven Serve Us In Our Daily Lives?

- A. There are passages of Scripture in God's word that both show the actions of those who sin against God and those who seek to live righteously by replacing sinful living with righteous living! (Galatians 5:19-23; Colossians 3:5-14.)
- B. When we carefully consider what God went through in the offering of His own Son, to put His forgiveness in place and for men and women to be benefitted by it, we stand in awesome wonder and humility! (Revelation 5:9, 10, 12, 13.)
- C. Knowing that we have all sinned and are worthy of eternal punishment helps to make a passage like Isaiah 55:7 truly stand out!
- D. We must understand that forgiveness from God is also to be given to those who sin against us! (II Chronicles 7:14; Psalms 103:12; Matthew 6:14; Colossians 1:13, 14.)