

***“Ready To Pardon!”***  
***Nehemiah 9:17***

**Introduction:**

1. Nehemiah 9:16-17 - “But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments, / And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not!”  
- As I Was Preparing For Tonight’s Message, From Nehemiah, I Was Drawn Again & Again To The Phrase Found In Verse 17:  
    - ***“Thou Art A God Ready To Pardon!” – Ready To Pardon!***
2. What An Incredible & Wonderful Truth About God!  
- That He Is ***Ready*** To Pardon!  
    - Matthew Henry - He: “Has Power To Forgive Sin, Is Willing To Forgive Sin, And Glories In Forgiving Sin!”  
- Not Only Found Here In Nehemiah!  
    - Also In Psalm 86:5 - “For Thou, Lord, Art Good, ***And Ready To Forgive***; And Plenteous In Mercy Unto All Them That Call Upon Thee!”  
    - Again: ***Ready To Forgive!***
3. God Is A Forgiving God!  
- When He Passed By & Spoke To Moses, He Described Himself As: “The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, / Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation!” (Exodus 34:6-7)  
    - ***Forgiving!***  
    - ***Forgiving Iniquity & Transgression & Sin!***
4. God – The God Of The Bible – Is A God Who Forgives!  
- A God Who Pardons!  
- A Pardon Is A Release From The Penalty Of A Crime!  
- In The United States, One Of The Greatest Powers Of The President:  
    - Is The Power To Pardon!  
    - ***IE:*** In Fact, Every President Has Used This Power Except For Two! Those 2 Just Didn’t Live Long Enough! Franklin Delano Roosevelt Issued The Most Pardons (3,687) / George Washington Issued The Fewest Pardons (16)!  
- And A Pardon Implies Guilt!  
    - Because Only Those Who Are Guilty Need A Pardon!
5. God Is A God “Ready To Pardon” & “Ready To Forgive!”  
- But:
  1. ***He Will Only Pardon Those Who Need His Pardon!***  
- Jesus Said In Mark 2:17 - “They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance!”  
    - Jesus Came To Heal The Sick!  
    - Jesus Came To Call The Sinners!  
    - Jesus Came To Pardon The Guilty!  
    - But, If We Never ***See Our Need*** For His Pardon, We Will Never ***Receive*** His Pardon!  
        - We Need To See Ourselves As God Sees Us!  
    - ***WE ARE SINNERS & WE NEED GOD’S PARDON!***
  - Because We Are Depraved!  
    - Completely Corrupt Because Of Sin! Every Bit Of Us!  
        - ***IE:*** The Bible Uses Leprosy As An Object Lesson For Sin - Leprosy Is Ulcers That Literally Eat Away The Skin / Bones / Organs!  
    - Isaiah Puts It This Way - “Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers,

children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. / Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. / From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying [rotting] sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified [soothed] with ointment!" (Isaiah 1:4-6)

- ***We Need God's Pardon!*** (Sinfully Depraved!)

- Because We Are Destitute!

- There Is Nothing We Can Do To Earn The Pardon / Forgiveness Of God! So Morally / Spiritually Bankrupt!

- **IE:** Debtors Prison - Middle Ages - Logical Flaw - How Can I Pay My Debt If I Am In Prison! Can't!

- Isaiah Again Says: "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away!" (Isaiah 64:6)

- ***We Need God's Pardon!***

- Because We Are Dead!

- Paul Describes Us As Already "Dead In Trespasses And Sins" In Ephesians 2:1 & Colossians 2:13!

- As If We Are Already Experiencing The Ultimate Penalty For Our Sin & Rebellion Against God!

- **IE:** A Corpse Will Not Get Any Better!

- John 3:18 - "He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God!"

- This Is Why We Need God's Pardon & Forgiveness!

- We Have Sinned Against Him! In So Many Ways!

- We Are Completely Depraved!

- We Are Completely Destitute!

- We Are Completely Dead!

\* This Sounds Hopeless!

- ***BUT God Is "Ready To Pardon" & "Ready To Forgive!"***

- And:

## 2. ***He Will Only Pardon Those Who Apply For Pardon!***

- **IE:** According To The US Department Of Justice, On June 30, 2008, There Were 2,310,984 Prisoners Held In Federal / State / Local Prisons & Jails! Of These, Only 2,325 Applied For A Federal Pardon! Even Though You Can Get The Application Online! 6 Page PDF! Perhaps, They Feel That It Is Hopeless & Useless!

- ***WHY DON'T PEOPLE APPLY FOR GOD'S PARDON?***

- Even Though God Is "Ready To Pardon"?

- ***WHY?*** Because Of A ***Stubborn Will!***

- Noone Likes To Admit That They Are Wrong!

- **IE:** Heard It Said Once: "Everyone In Prison Is Innocent!"

- To Apply For God's Pardon:

- You Must ***Recognize*** Your Sin / Guilt / Need!

- Like The Publican In Luke 18:13 - "The publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner!"

- David - Psalm 51:3 - "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me!"

- God Is "Ready To Pardon" Those Who Recognize Their Sin!

- ***WHY?*** Because Of A ***Stubborn Wickedness!***

- Continued Rebellion Against Their Creator!

- To Apply For God's Pardon:

- You Must ***Repent*** From Your Sin!

- Acts 3:19 - Peter - "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out!"
- To Repent Is To Turn From Your Sin / Turn To God!
- God Is "Ready To Pardon" Those Who Repent From Sin!
- **WHY?** Because Of A **Stubborn Worldliness!**
- A Love For This World & The Things That Are In This World! 1 John 2:15 - "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him!"
- To Apply For God's Pardon:
  - You Must **Request** It From Him!
  - And Want The Forgiveness Of God More Than The Pleasures Of This World!
  - 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!"
- God Is "Ready To Forgive" Those Who Request His Pardon!
- To Apply For God's Pardon:
  - Is Not Hopeless & Is Not Useless!
  - **BECAUSE God Is "Ready To Pardon" & "Ready To Forgive!"**
  - But:

### 3. **He Will Only Pardon Those Who Receive His Pardon!**

- **IE:** Did You Know That A Presidential Pardon Can Be Refused! In 1833, George Wilson Robbed A Federal Payroll Train, And Killed A Man In The Process! He Was Sentenced To Hang! Because The Public Didn't Want Capital Punishment At The Time, President Andrew Jackson Eventually Issued A Pardon – However, George Wilson Refused The Pardon! The Case Went All The Way To The Supreme Court, Where Chief Justice John Marshall Said: "*A pardon is a parchment whose only value must be determined by the receiver of the pardon. It has no value apart from that which the receiver gives to it. George Wilson has refused to accept the pardon. We cannot conceive why he would do so, but he has. Therefore, George Wilson must die!*" George Wilson, As Punishment For His Crime, Was Hanged! The Supreme Court Declared: A Pardon Must Not Only Be Granted, It Must Also Be Accepted!
  - Why Would Anyone Refuse A Pardon Offered By The President? Why Would Anyone Refuse The Pardon Offered By God? **How Do You Receive God's Pardon?**
- You Receive God's Pardon **Through Jesus Christ!**
  - Acts 4:12 - "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved!"
  - You Are Pardoned Only Through Jesus, God's Son!
    - Not Through Yourself!
    - Not Through Another!
  - Only Through Christ! Reformers - "Christ Alone!"
- You Receive God's Pardon **Through Faith!**
  - "Faith Alone!" – Familiar Verses:
    - John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life!"
    - Acts 16:31 - "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and thou shalt be saved!"
    - Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace are ye saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast!"
- Believe:
  - That Jesus Christ **Came For You!** Believe That:
    - 1 Timothy 1:15 - "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I (You) am chief!"
  - That Jesus Christ **Died For You!** Believe That:
    - 2 Corinthians 5:21 - God "Hath made him to be sin for us (You), who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him!"
  - That Jesus Christ **Lives For You!** Believe That:
    - Hebrews 7:25 - "He is able also to save them (You) to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them!"

- That Jesus Christ *Is Coming* For *You!*

- John 14:1-3 - "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. / In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. / And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also!"

**Conclusion:**

1. Have You Received God's Pardon Through Faith In His Son, Jesus Christ?
2. If Not, Why Not?
  - Because God Is "Ready To Pardon" & "Ready To Forgive!"
  - You Need His Pardon! So, Apply / Ask For His Pardon! Then, Receive / Believe His Pardon!
3. If You Have Received His Pardon:
  - What Are You Doing With Your Pardon?
  - Some Who Are Pardoned:
    - Continue To Waste Their Life - Even End Up Back In Prison!
    - Remember: He Is Still A God Who Is "Ready To Pardon" & "Ready To Forgive!"
      - 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!"
  - Others Who Are Pardoned:
    - "Go & Sin No More!" (John 8:11 - Jesus To The Adulteress Woman)
    - And Live Their Life For The One Who Pardoned Them!
4. What Will You Do With God's Pardon?
  - Take It! Receive It! Believe It! Start Living For Him!
  - Because God Is Always "Ready To Pardon" & "Ready To Forgive!"

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