



The Distinctiveness of Christianity: Forgiveness of Sins

Matthew 9:1-8

- 1) Christ will not remain long where He is not welcome (9:1)
- 2) Anyone, at any time, for any reason can come to Jesus (2a)
- 3) Jesus sees and rewards faith (2b)
 - a) Gives us inner courage; casts out fear and shame
 - b) Makes us sons/daughters of the Kingdom
 - c) Washes away all our sins
- 4) Jesus sees and condemns all unbelief (3-4)
 - a) Sinful thoughts are offensive to Christ
 - b) He "looks at the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7)
 - c) Knows the minds of all (1 Kings 8:39; John 2:25)
 - d) Searches hearts; understands every intent (1 Chron. 28:9; cf. Jer. 17:10; Ezek. 11:5)
- 5) Only God can forgive sin and its symptoms (5-7; cf. Mark 2:7; Luke 5:21)
 - a) Isaiah 43:25
 - b) Micah 7:18-19
- 6) Those affected by Christ are "awestruck" and give glory to God (8a)
- 7) Jesus is the prophesied "Son of Man" (8b; cf. Dan. 7:13-14)
- 8) Conclusions
 - a) Reverential awe of Christ is the purpose of life
 - b) Those that shun Christ invite an eternity of misery
 - c) When we bring folks to Christ, we show faith too
 - d) No one who comes in faith is rejected by Christ
 - e) Those who receive forgiveness have reason for good cheer