

# Answer Key for Students

## *Forgiveness:* Course FOR

### MOUNT ZION BIBLE INSTITUTE

You have been encouraged to use your own words while formulating answers from the reading text. It is OK when you occasionally quote directly from the text; but you should not be doing so often. We are looking for your own thoughts and words in order to demonstrate your understanding of what you have read. In this answer key, we have often quoted from the text directly. This has been done in order to have an accurate standard of comparison for your answers in your own words. Therefore, your answers are acceptable whenever they are a reasonable representation of the general gist of the text; we do not require or want an exact match with our answers provided herein.

There are many questions that ask for a personal response. We suggest you review these with your pastor or other mature, Bible-believing Christian that you know. Answers or words not from the reading text are set in brackets.

### Lesson One: Where We Stand

1. All men need forgiveness, because all men are sinners.
2. We are all **great sinners**. “There is none righteous, no, not one”; “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:10, 23). Sinners we were born, and sinners we have been all our lives. We are all **guilty sinners** in the sight of God. We have broken His holy Law. We have transgressed His precepts. We have not done His will. There is not a commandment in all the ten<sup>1</sup> that does not condemn us. If we have not broken it in deed, we have in word; if we have not broken it in word, we have in thought and imagination—and that continually. Tried by the standard of the fifth chapter of St. Matthew, there is not one of us that would be acquitted. All the world is “guilty before God.”
3. One of His prophets says, “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look upon iniquity” (Hab 1:13). We think the angels exalted beings, and far above ourselves; but we are told in Scripture, “his angels he charged with folly” (Job 4:18). We admire the moon and stars as glorious and splendid bodies; but we read, “Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not, the stars are not pure in his sight” (Job 25:5). We talk of the heavens as the noblest and purest part of creation; but even of them it is written, “The heavens are not clean in his sight” (Job 15:15).
4. Surely, we ought all to cease from proud thoughts about ourselves. We ought to lay our hands upon our mouths and say with Abraham, I am “dust and ashes”; and with Job, “I am vile”; and with Isaiah, “We are all as an unclean thing”; and with John, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (Gen 18:27; Job 40:4; Isa 64:6; 1Jo 1:8).
5. ...Surely there is but one conclusion to be arrived at: we are all great sinners, and we all need a great forgiveness.
6.
  - a. See now what just cause I have to say that to know our need of forgiveness is the first thing in true religion.
  - b. Sin is a burden, and must be taken off. Sin is a defilement, and must be cleansed away. Sin is a mighty debt, and must be paid. Sin is a mountain standing between us and heaven, and must be removed.
  - c. The first step towards heaven is to see clearly that we deserve hell.
  - d. There are but two alternatives before us: we must either be forgiven, or be miserable forever.
  - e. Personal answer
7.
  - a. Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”
  - b. Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
  - c. Hebrews 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”
  - d. 1 John 1:8 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”
8. They cannot supply you with forgiveness, however diligently you may use them...they cannot justify the sinner. They cannot put away transgression...if you think to establish a righteousness of your own by it, in the slightest degree, you are only getting further away from God every day.
9.
  - a. They will never buy for you an entrance into heaven. They will never pay your debt to God.
  - b. They are all imperfect in themselves, and only increase your guilt. There is no merit or worthiness in them at the very best.

<sup>1</sup> the ten – the Ten Commandments (Exo 20:3-17).

10. The judge does not pardon the thief because he is sorry for what he did. Today's sorrow will not wipe off the score of yesterday's sins. It is not an ocean of tears that would ever cleanse an uneasy conscience and give it peace.

## Lesson Two: The Way Forward

1. a. That way is simply to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour...  
b. It is to cast your soul, with all its sins, unreservedly on Christ; to cease completely from any dependence on your own works or doings, either in whole or in part; and to rest on no other work but Christ's work, no other righteousness but Christ's righteousness, no other merit but Christ's merit, as your ground of hope...to Christ "give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" (Act 10:43)...In Him, writes Paul, "we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Col 1:14).
2. The Lord Jesus Christ...has made a full and complete satisfaction for sin by suffering death in our place upon the cross. There He offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, and allowed the wrath of God, which we deserved, to fall on His own head. For our sins, as our Substitute, He gave Himself, suffered, and died, the just for the unjust, the innocent for the guilty—that He might deliver us from the curse of a broken Law, and provide a complete pardon for all who are willing to receive it.
3. Christ, in one word, has purchased a full forgiveness, if we are only willing to receive it. He has done all, paid all, suffered all that was needful to reconcile us to God. He has provided a garment of righteousness to clothe us. He has opened a fountain of living waters to cleanse us. He has removed every barrier between us and God the Father, taken every obstacle out of the way, and made a road by which the vilest may return.
4. a. ...the sinner has only to believe and be saved, to eat and be satisfied, to ask and receive, to wash and be clean...And faith, simple faith, is the only thing required, in order that you and I may be forgiven.  
b. ...trust in Him, rest on Him, lean on Him, confide in Him, commit our souls to Him, and forsaking all other hope, cleave only to Him.  
c. Let a man only do this, and he shall be saved. His iniquities shall be found completely pardoned, and his transgressions entirely taken away. Every man and woman that so trusts is wholly forgiven and reckoned perfectly righteous. His sins are clean gone and his soul is justified in God's sight, however bad and guilty he may have been.

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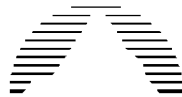
5. ...preach a free pardon by faith in Christ, and then Satan will have great wrath, for he knows he has but a short time.
6. Hear what the Prince of Peace Himself declares: "All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies, wherewithsoever they shall blaspheme" (Mar 3:28). "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall become as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa 1:18). Yes: though your trespasses be more in number than the hairs of your head...still they can all be pardoned...His blood "cleanseth us from all sin" (1Jo 1:7).
7. It is a pardon so complete that he who has it is reckoned as righteous as if he had never sinned at all! His iniquities are blotted out. They are removed from him as far as the east from the west (Psa 103:12). There remains no condemnation for him. The Father sees him joined to Christ and is well pleased.
8. It is not burdened with an "if," like Solomon's pardon to Adonijah: "*If* he will show himself a worthy man" (1Ki 1:52). Nor yet are you obliged to carry a price in your hand, or to bring a character with you to prove yourself deserving of mercy. Jesus requires but one character, and that is that you should feel yourself a sinful, bad man.
9. [Key point: To come is the only thing we must do.] "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (Joh 7:37). "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Mat 11:28).
10. [The Scriptures tell us that it is so!] But Jesus is "good and ready to forgive" (Psa 86:5). He "delighteth in mercy" (Mic 7:18). You and I may well come boldly to the throne of grace. He who sits there is far more willing and ready to give mercy than we are to receive it (Heb 4:16).
11. a. [It should give real confidence that the Scriptures are true and reliable, and that who lays hold of Christ by faith will not be disappointed.]  
b. Personal answer
12. His complete salvation from the *power* of sin is every year nearer and nearer to him [as he gets closer to physical death and glorification]; but as to his forgiveness and justification, and deliverance from the *guilt* of sin, it is a finished work from the very minute he first commits himself to Christ.

13. Once justified, you are justified forever. Once written down in the book of life, your name shall never be blotted out. The sins of God's children are said to be cast into the depths of the sea, to be sought for and not found, to be remembered no more, to be cast behind God's back (Mic 7:19; Jer 50:20; 31:34; Isa 38:17).

### Lesson Three: Being Forgiven

1.
  - a. [These describe his safety amidst trials and tribulations, and at the Last Judgment.]
  - b. The accuser of the brethren can lay no charge against him. The Law cannot condemn him...He is in a secure sanctuary.
  - c. He has treasure in heaven that cannot be affected by worldly changes...He has a portion that will endure when bank-notes and sovereigns are worthless things.
  - d. He is ready for anything that may happen. Nothing can harm him...But still he is ready for all...He has Christ.
2.
  - a. "The remembrance of sin is grievous unto them, and the burden of it is intolerable."...they...shrink from it with horror...they dread it, flee from it, and long to be delivered altogether from its power!
  - b. If you and sin are friends, you and God are not yet reconciled. You are not meet for heaven, for one main part of heaven's excellence is the absence of all sin.
3. His person, His offices, His work, His name, His cross, His blood, His words, His example, His day, His ordinances—all, all are precious to forgiven souls. The ministry that exalts Him most is that which they enjoy most. The books that are most full of Him are most pleasant to their minds. The people on earth they feel most drawn to are those in whom they see something of Christ. His name is as ointment poured forth, and comes with a peculiar sweetness to their ears (Song 1:3).
4.
  - a. They cannot forget that they owe all they have and hope for to free grace, and this keeps them lowly. They are brands plucked from the fire, debtors who could not pay for themselves, captives who must have remained in prison forever but for undeserved mercy, wandering sheep who were ready to perish when the Shepherd found them.
  - b. ...they are of all God's creatures the most inconsistent, and of all God's children the most likely to stumble and pierce themselves with many sorrows.
5.
  - a. Their chief desire is to please Him Who has saved them, to do His will, to glorify Him in body and in spirit, which are His.
  - b. "He is under a ruinous delusion and is not forgiven at all"...Pardon of sin and love of sin are like oil and water—they will never go together. All that are washed in the blood of Christ are also sanctified by the Spirit of Christ.
  - c. Personal answer
6.
  - a. Forgiven souls are forgiving. They do as they have been done by. They look over the offences of their brethren. They endeavour to "walk in love, as Christ also hath loved" them and gave Himself for them (Eph 5:2). They remember how God for Christ's sake forgave them, and endeavour to do the same towards their fellow-creatures.
  - b. It is very hard to believe that such an one...has ever considered how he is praying against himself every time he uses the Lord's Prayer. Is he not saying, as it were, "Father, do not forgive me my trespasses at all"?
7.
  - a. Now, if this paper is read by such persons, it will probably either 1) alarm them, or 2) make them very angry. If it makes them angry, I shall be sorry.
  - b. If it alarms them, I shall be glad. I want to alarm them. I want to awaken them from their present state. I want them to take in the great fact that they are not yet forgiven, that they have not peace with God and are on the high road to destruction.
  - c. Personal answer
8.
  - a. Personal answer
  - b. Except you lay hold for your own soul, you will be as surely lost as if there was no forgiveness at all.
9.
  - a. Your soul is in awful danger. You may die this year. And if you die as you are, you are lost forever. If you die without pardon, without pardon you will rise again at the last day. There is a sword over your head that hangs by a single hair. There is but a step between you and death.
  - b. Then what have you got by your religion?...But what have you really got after all? Any hope? Any peace? Any joy? Any comfort? Nothing: literally nothing! You have got nothing but mere temporal things, if you are not a pardoned soul.
  - c. [No!] It is like thrusting off the hand of conscience, and seizing it by the throat to stop its voice. Why are you more likely to seek forgiveness at a future time? Why should you not seek it now?
10.
  - a. Think not for a moment that you have some great thing to do before you come to Christ. Such a notion is of the earth, earthy; the gospel bids you come just as you are. Man's idea is to make his peace with God by repentance, and then come to Christ at last; the gospel way is to receive peace from Christ first of all, and begin with Him. Man's idea is to amend, and turn over a new leaf, and so work his way up to reconciliation and friendship with God; the gospel way is first to be friends with God through Christ, and then to work. Man's idea is to toil up the hill and find life at the top...

- b. ...the gospel bids you come just as you are. Man's idea is to make his peace with God by repentance, and then come to Christ at last; the gospel way is to receive peace from Christ first of all, and begin with Him. Man's idea is to amend, and turn over a new leaf, and so work his way up to reconciliation and friendship with God; the gospel way is first to be friends with God through Christ, and then to work. Man's idea is to toil up the hill and find life at the top; the gospel way is first to live by faith in Christ, and then to do His will. ...Come then, willing to receive, and not thinking how much you can bring. Come, willing to take what Christ offers, and not fancying you can give anything in return. Come with your sins, and no other qualification but a hearty desire for pardon, and, as sure as the Bible is true, you shall be saved.
- c. Personal answer
11. You and I are great sinners, but then we have a great Saviour. You and I have sinned sins that are past man's knowledge, but then we have "the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge," to rest upon (Eph 3:19). You and I feel our hearts to be a fountain of evil, but then we have another fountain of greater power in Christ's blood to which we may daily resort. You and I have mighty enemies to contend with, but then the "Captain of our salvation" is mightier still, and is ever with us.
12. We ought not to be satisfied with the same kind of hearing, reading, and praying that satisfied us in years gone by. We ought to labour every year to throw more heart and reality into everything we do in our religion. To love Christ more intensely, to abhor evil more thoroughly, to cleave to what is good more closely, to watch even our least ways more narrowly, to declare very plainly that we seek a country, to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and be clothed with Him in every place and company—to see more, to feel more, to know more, to do more—these ought to be our aims and desires every year we begin.
13. a. Alas, it is poor work indeed to be swallowed up in our own spiritual concerns, and taken up with our own spiritual ailments, and never to think of others! We forget that there is such a thing as religious selfishness. Let us count it a sorrowful thing to go to heaven alone...The idle, do-little, selfish Christian has little idea what he is missing.
- b. ...let us seek to draw companions with us. We ought never to forget that every man, woman, and child around us, will soon be either in heaven or hell. Let us say to others, as Moses, "Come with us, and we will do thee good" (Num 10:29).
14. ...let us dread allowing ourselves in the least evil habits, lest insensibly they rise up like a mist and hide Him from our eyes. In His light alone shall we see light and feel warmth; separate from Him we shall find the world a dark and cold wilderness (Psa 36:9-12).
15. Personal answer
16. a. Personal answer  
b. Personal answer



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