

**THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE
OF FORGIVENESS OF SIN:
AN ESSAY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649545889

The Christian Doctrine of Forgiveness of Sin: An Essay by James Freeman Clarke

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JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE

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CONTENTS.

PART I.—STATE OF THE QUESTION.

SECT.	PAGE
1. Importance of the Doctrine of Forgiveness	9
2. Taught by Jesus in the Gospels	10
3. And in the Book of Acts	11
4. And in the Epistles of Paul	18
5. And by the other Apostles	15
6. It is necessary for Peace and Progress	17
7. The Moral Law by itself may make men worse; therefore Forgiveness is needed	18
8. But the Doctrine of Forgiveness is attended with Diffi- culties	21
9. Which are also found in the New Testament	24
10. Which teaches Doctrines apparently opposed to that of Forgiveness	26
11. Such Apparent Contradictions the Token and Evidence of the Presence of Large Truths	30
12. Truths which God has joined together, not to be put asunder	32
13. The Orthodox do not fully teach Retribution	34
14. Nor the Rationalists, Forgiveness	37

PART II.—THE NATURE OF FORGIVENESS.

SECT.	PAGE
15. What is Forgiveness?	41
16. The Consequences of Sin are Twofold	42
17. The First, a Sense of Divine Displeasure	44
18. Which is removed by Forgiveness	45
19. Implying also an Objective Change in the Mind of God	48
20. The Second Consequence of Sin, which is Depravity of Character, is not immediately removed by Forgiveness	48
21. Recapitulation	50
22. This View of Forgiveness satisfies the Sense of Justice	52
23. And the Need of Pardon	54

PART III.—FAITH AND WORKS; OR, THE CONDITIONS OF FORGIVENESS.

24. Faith, Works, a Forgiving Spirit, Repentance and Confession, the Scripture Conditions of Pardon	58
25. Faith or Works	60
26. The Opposition of Paul and James	61
27. The Distinction between Forgiveness and Justification	64
28. Faith and Knowledge distinguished	65
29. Faith and Belief distinguished	69
30. Faith and Opinion distinguished	72
31. Importance of these Distinctions	73
32. Christian Faith in particular	75
33. Christian Faith as the Condition of Forgiveness	78
34. Works, growing out of Faith, the Condition of Full Salvation	79
35. Mutual Relation of Faith and Works in the Christian Life	81
36. Results of Forgiveness in the Future Life	82
37. Objections to this Doctrine Answered	85

CONTENTS.

5

PART IV. — OBSTACLES AND HELPS.

SECT.	PAGE
38. Difficulty of believing in Forgiveness	90
39. All Moral Training makes it more difficult	93
40. Christ's Revelation of Pardoning Love alone makes it possible	93
41. The WORK OF GOD in Human Forgiveness	95
42. The WORK OF CHRIST in Human Forgiveness; First, as a Teacher	98
43. Second, in his Life	101
44. Third, by his Death. Principal Texts	102
45. Various Theories concerning the Effect of Christ's Death	106
46. These Theories, matters of Theology, not of Religion	108
47. How the Death of Christ may produce Faith in Forgiving Love	109
48. As, in fact, it has actually done	112
49. How Christ's Death may have satisfied God	113
50. By communicating Actual Holiness to Man	117
51. The WORK OF MAN in his own Forgiveness	120
52. His Efforts to do Right a Preparation for Forgiveness	123
53. Repentance, and its Relation to Faith	124
54. Is Faith Man's Work or God's Gift?	125
55. God and Man concur in every Act of Faith	126
56. What MAN can do, and what he cannot do	127
57. The WORK OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	130
58. The Twofold Work of the Church in Forgiveness	133

PART V. — RESULTS OF FORGIVENESS.

59. The NEW LIFE growing out of Forgiven Sin	140
60. Its Twofold Character, and that of Goodness in general	144
61. The Christian Life the Synthesis of both kinds of Goodness	149

SECT.	PAGE
82. The Evil of cultivating exclusively the Goodness of Effort	151
83. Forgiveness the Practical Solution of the Problem of Evil	155
84. And that of Human Freedom and Divine Providence .	157
85. Conclusion	159

NOTE.

THE American Unitarian Association have, with the consent of the author, and in response to a very frequent and earnest request, republished this volume, which has for many years been out of print. The cordial reception of this Treatise in the former editions proves that it meets a very general religious want.

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PART I.

STATE OF THE QUESTION.

§ 1. Importance of the Doctrine of Forgiveness.

THE doctrine of FORGIVENESS OF SIN occupies an important place in Christian theology. As connected with the doctrine of the Atonement, it has been placed by many theologians in the centre of the Christian system, and has been called the essential doctrine of Christianity. It is prominent in the teachings of Jesus and his apostles. Its influence on the formation of the Christian character is, as I shall hereafter show, great and constant. Yet the subject is attended with difficulties, which past investigation has not wholly removed. On this account, it seems desirable that the doctrine should be examined anew, its diffi-