

INTRODUCTION: Two things we need to note: **FIRST:** I believe it is important to note that every word in this verse begins with an “a.” This alliteration is carried out throughout the entire list switching from different letters making me think it might have been the original intent that this list of sins be memorized since alliteration is a memory tool. **SECOND:** It is important to note that Paul ends the list of sins common among the pagans with the three sins that are most common among religious hypocrites: (1) unloving, (2) unforgiving, (3) unmerciful

21. unloving (Without natural affections): without natural affection, unsociable (Rom 1:31 marg.), inhuman (2Ti. 3:3 RSV), unloving (2Ti. 3:3 NKJV) This expression denotes the lack of affectionate regard toward their children. The attachment of parents to children is one of the strongest in nature, and nothing can overcome it but the most confirmed and established wickedness

22. Unforgiving (Implacable) Aspondos = that cannot be persuaded to enter into a covenant, implacable

This word properly denotes those who will not be reconciled where there is a quarrel; or who pursue the offender with unyielding revenge. It denotes an unforgiving temper;

23. unmerciful = Aneleemon = without mercy, merciless

Destitute of compassion. As a proof of this, we may remark that no provisions for the poor or the infirm were made among the pagan. The sick and the infirm were cast out, and doomed to depend on the stinted charity of individuals. Pure religion, only, opens the heart to the appeals of want; and nothing but Christianity has yet expanded the hearts of people to make public provisions for the poor, the ignorant, and the afflicted.

This morning, we shall look at some principles applicable to being unmerciful and unforgiving:

I. PRINCIPLE #1: UNFORGIVING & UNMERCIFUL ATTITUDES ARE CHARACTERISTIC OF THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED:

Romans:1:31-2:1ff

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy

Matthew 18: 21-35

II. PRINCIPLE #2: WHOEVER HAS OFFENDED YOU HAS OFFENDED GOD GREATER BECAUSE HE IS HOLIER AND HE IS LOVE. Illustrate with you story of the hatchet man.

III. AN UNFORGIVING AND UNMERCIFUL SPIRIT HINDERS OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS Matthew 18:31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved and came and told their master all that had been done.

IV. AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT MAKES GOD ANGRY WITH US AND EXPOSES US TO CHASTISEMENT Matthew 18:34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due him.

V. AN UNFORGIVING & UNMERCIFUL SPIRIT IS INDICATIVE THAT A SAVED PERSON IS OUT OF FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive not their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

VI. IT HINDERS OUR ABILITY TO WORSHIP If you bring your gift to the altar and remember your brother has ought against you, leave your gift and go and be reconciled, then bring your gift.

VII. HOW DO WE FORGIVE?

Trust in God's Ultimate Justice against all those who sin

Love your neighbor as yourself

Dig down to the foundation which is Christ