**The Power of Evidentiary Pardon**

**Introduction**

1. Guilt is a universal reality – **Romans 3:19, 23** – therefore, so is the need/desire for pardon – **Romans 7:24**
   1. The presence of the guilt of sin disables one from serving God – fellowship, knowledge of sin before holy God/holy mission.
   2. Pardon makes one fit to serve God – this must be based in evidence – fabricated pardon compounds the problem. (misinformation, misunderstanding, misconduct)
   3. One who has the confidence of pardon from God is empowered to do His bidding.
2. Isaiah as a case study of the power of evidentiary pardon (pardon based in evidence) – **Isaiah 6**
   1. Deterrent – **(vv. 1-5)** – Perfect holiness (in contrast to woes pronounced upon Judah) – smoke of wrath? Isaiah’s woe (**v. 5** – unfit to serve due to sin).
   2. Deliverance – **(vv. 6-7)** – Divine provision of pardon – **(v. 7)** – evidence in divine revelation – confidence offered in message that iniquity is purged.
   3. Devotion – **(vv. 8-13)** – Boldness to the extent of volunteering at the Lord’s call. Empowerment to carry out difficult calling knowing he is right with God and bears His message.
3. God’s people are rightly concerned with strengthening each other for the service of the Lord. This can only be done by dealing with the crippling/paralyzing problem of sin. The solution is rooted in the word of God and accessed by faith. True pardon is always evidentiary, and only this will lead to effective discipleship.
4. The Deterrent – Sin and Shame
5. Sin Always Separates from God
   1. **Isaiah 59:1-2** – sin separates from God.
   2. What sin does not? – All sin – He is holy – **1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 John 1:5** – no darkness in God – ***“at all”***
      1. Ignorance, weakness, doctrinal error, immorality, rebellion, etc. – which does not separate?
      2. **1 John 1:6** – to have any darkness ***“at all”*** **(v. 5)** is to not be in fellowship with Him – cannot have fellowship w/ any darkness.
   3. Sin deters acceptable service to God – it doesn’t always keep one from attempting service, but it always nullifies the service.
      1. **Isaiah 1:10-15** – when tainted with sin, appearance before God in worship becomes empty formalism – no fellowship (**v. 15; Isaiah 59:2** – sin).
      2. **Psalm 50:16-21** – worship/service is vain for the one separated from God by sinful conduct.
         1. **(v. 21)** – like you? 🡪
         2. **(vv. 16-17)** – double tongued/faced – speaking one thing, but casting it behind you – God does not say He is holy, and then accept the worship of the sinful.
      3. **Matthew 5:21-26** – vain worship when in sin against brother.
         1. **(vv. 21-22)** – warning against sin against brother – hatred in heart – exposed by speech.
         2. **(vv. 23-24)** – Urgency expressed in effect sin against bro. has on worship – would be vain due to present sin.
         3. **(vv. 25-26)** – Shows the sin not only affected relationship with bro. but with God – the judge.
      4. **2 Timothy 2:20-21** – implication: without cleansing, not useful or prepared for good work.
6. Unaddressed Sin Engulfs One with Shame
   1. One may be desirous of service to God, but sin has separated them from Him, and their sorrow has been hijacked by Satan to keep them from ever coming back to God.
      1. Revelation of God’s perfect holiness is not intended to deter us from coming to serve Him. (spiritual paralysis)
      2. It is intended to usher us toward the release from sin He offers as a preparation for service toward Him.
   2. Sorrow for sin (a product of a learned conscience) is a gift of God – **2 Corinthians 7:8-10** – leads to repentance/restoration.
   3. Satan deceives with sorrow – **2 Corinthians 2:5-11** – uses it to swallow one up.
      1. **Contrast** – **Peter** (led to realize by Jesus that he can be restored and used) and **Judas** (deceived by Satan to believe forgiveness wasn’t an option, and he could not be used)
      2. **Isaiah 6:5, 7-8** – found release from sorrow to the extent of volunteering himself!
   4. **Yes, sin separates you – BUT DON’T LET THE SORROW/SHAME OF SUCH DETER YOU FROM RECTIFYING YOUR WRONG, AND THEN YOU BECOME CONSUMED BY IT.**
7. The Deliverance – Pardon for Sin
8. God Offers Pardon
   1. God desires the salvation of all – **1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9**
   2. God has extended His offer through His Son to all – **John 3:16; Romans 5:6-8** – He was the first to act.
   3. Pardon should be understood:
      1. Not a change that takes place in man – it affects man, but pardon is an action of God.
      2. God pardons – **Isaiah 55:7**
      3. Pardon takes place in His mind – **Jeremiah 31:34** (**Hebrews 8:12**)
9. God Offers Confidence of Pardon (Evidentiary – proof)
   1. We can have confidence, and God wants us to – **1 John 5:13**
      1. We are expected to be able to give a defense – **1 Peter 3:15** (present evidence)
   2. However, as pardon takes place in the mind of God, the source of confidence must be the revelation of His mind:
      1. Not feelings – **Jeremiah 6:14** – implies the people believed them.
      2. But the Spirit revealed mind of God – **1 Corinthians 2:11-12**
         1. How do we know that pardon has taken place in the mind of God?
         2. The evidence is His word!
      3. The witness of the Spirit – **Romans 8:16** – bears witness “with” our spirit, NOT TO our spirit.
         1. Spirit declares + our spirit obeys = we are children.
         2. EX: **Mark 16:16**
      4. He abides in us by the Spirit – **1 John 3:24** (abides = fellowship; commandments = Spirit given); **1 John 5:13** – written (Spirit revealed) that we may know (when we do what it says)
      5. Abiding in word – **John 8:31-32** – freedom from sin by abiding in word – discipleship.
      6. Everlasting consolation, good hope by grace – **2 Thessalonians 2:13-17** – by belief in truth, holding fast traditions taught.
         1. Consolation/hope – concerns future glory **(v. 14)**
         2. Obtaining of glory – through belief/holding fast truth/traditions **(vv. 13, 15)**
      7. Only the word of God can be the determining factor of our standing with God.
10. The Devotion – Boldness to Serve
11. When our forgiveness/standing with God is not rooted in substantial evidence of God’s word doubt and fear assail.
    1. We do no good for individuals and the church in offering flimsy, anecdotal, hypothetical, and emotional arguments.
    2. Doubts and fears will still fester leading to weak, cowardly, compromising Christians/churches.
12. True Pardon Results in Bold Service
    1. Isaiah’s boldness – **Isaiah 6:8-13** – he went from ***“Woe is me”*** to ***“Send me”*** – His mission was not an easy one, but confidence in standing with God, and having the truth gave boldness.
    2. David – **Psalm 51:12-13** – from despondency to restored joy in pardon leading to the proclamation of God’s word.
    3. Paul – **2 Timothy 1:12; 4:6-8, 16-18** – Paul’s confident standing with the Lord led to his stand for truth to the end.
    4. Boldness to enter holiest – **Hebrews 10:19-22**
       1. Boldness – confidence to be before a holy God, and petition/serve Him.
       2. Boldness from:
          1. Blood of Jesus.
          2. New and living way (NC consecrated/dedicated/inaugurated by His blood/sacrifice).
          3. High Priesthood of Jesus. (**Hebrews 4:15-16**)
          4. Hearts sprinkled from evil conscience, bodies washed pure water (baptism) – **Hebrews 9:14** – cleansed from dead works TO SERVE GOD.
       3. Such boldness is not afforded in the presence of continued sin – **(vv. 26-27)** ***(“For if we go on sinning willfully,” NASB***)
       4. Such boldness leads to:
          1. **(v. 22)** – drawing near
          2. **(v. 23)** – holding fast confession of hope.
          3. **(vv. 24-25)** – considering others/not forsaking assembly.
          4. **(vv. 32, 35-39)** – endurance through trial/tribulation.

**Conclusion**

1. The confidence of our pardon and standing with God can only truly come from the evidence of scripture.
2. It is this kind of assurance which leads to devoted service of God.