

Making Peace with Your Past

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I. Introduction.

- A. Many people have great difficulty making peace with the past.
- B. As long as one does not understand forgiveness, it is impossible to forgive oneself.
- C. One cannot try to forgive himself—he either does it or does not.
- D. Whenever there is sin there is a debt that is created. The problem is paying oneself back when one sins against himself.
- E. God has provided a way out of this dilemma.
- F. The reason we have guilt is that God has put His law in man's heart.
- G. The guilt is the key to finding Jesus Christ as Savior.
- H. Text: Colossians 2.

II. When we were completely separated from God, God made a move on us.

- A. God made us alive in Christ forgiving all our sins.
- B. He forgave our debts by canceling out the written code with its regulations.
 - 1. He canceled the sin debt.
 - 2. You do not have to forgive yourself because you have already been forgiven.
 - 3. One cannot forgive himself unless he accepts the fact that his debt has already been canceled.
 - 4. At the cross, one loses his right to condemn himself. (Romans 8:1)
 - 5. The believer must tear down old memorials to failure and build new ones to Christ's goodness and grace.
 - 6. When the devil reminds us of the past, you remind him of his future.
- C. Apart from the grace of God, we are capable of a lot worse.
- D. We do not need a second chance—we need a Savior.

Application questions:

1. What is the difficulty we have in trying to forgive ourselves?

2. What memorials to failure do you need to tear down? What are some memorials you can build you up that remind you of God's grace in Christ?

3. How would you counsel someone struggling with forgiving him or herself in light of the message? Explain.
