

## Pardoned

**Scripture:** Isaiah 55:6-7

### Introduction

One of the first official acts of President Jimmy Carter was the issuance of a blanket presidential pardon for every draft evader and deserter of the Vietnam war era. His pardon bridged a gap of estrangement and allowed hundreds to come home.

In a very real sense, this is what God has done for us. Our separation from God, which was necessitated by our sin, has been terminated by divine decree. God is saying to each of us, "Return to me, for I will abundantly pardon!"

### I. Pardon implies prior determination of guilt

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way....

- A. The Word has determined your guilt
  - 1. ... there is none righteous, no, not one: (Romans 3:10)
  - 2. Therefore, thou art inexcusable, O man... (Romans 2:1)
- B. The verdict has been returned, "Guilty"
- C. The sentence must be death

**Ezekiel 18:4** The soul that sinneth, it shall die.

### II. Pardon implies a prior loss of rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizenship, and the imposition of a penalty

- A. Sin separates from God's society

**Isaiah 59:2** But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.
- B. Sin alienates from God

**Ephesians 2:2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now

worketh in the children of disobedience....

**Ephesians 2:12** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.

- C. Sin places us on death row

**Romans 1:32a** Who knowing the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death....

### III. Pardon implies forgiveness of guilt, restoration of all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizenship, and removal of all penalties for guilt

- A. Forgiveness of guilt and removal of penalties of guilt

**Hebrews 10:16-17** This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them: And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.
- B. Restoration of rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizenship

**Ephesians 2:13, 19** But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God....