

FORGIVING OURSELVES

Bill Buckner died this week. He was one of the all-time great baseball players. He sadly isn't remembered for all of his great plays throughout his career. He is remembered for one bad one. In the 1986 World Series he let a seemingly routine ground ball go through his legs. This cost them the game. They later went on to lose the series thus keeping the 68 years long drought for the Red Sox without a championship.

Fans could not forgive Buckner. He was in essence shunned and forced to live in a prison of sorts away from baseball for because in their minds he cost them the championship. It was not for another 20+ years that they publicly forgave him.

How often we treat our sin the same way. We can't forgive ourselves or others for something done. For years we carry a grudge against ourselves or others for what we thought was a very egregious offense. We then are forced to live in a prison of anger or remorse for years until we learn to forgive like God does. ***For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You (Psa 86:5).***

Why are we so slow to forgive when God is so quick to forgive?

1. We let our emotions rule our actions.
The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick. Who can understand it (Jer 17:9).
2. We don't follow the example of God.
Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect (Mt 5:48).
3. We lack the faith that God is in control to take care of it.
Do not say, "I will repay evil." Wait for the Lord, and He will save you (Prov 20:22).

Bill Buckner's mistake ultimately didn't cost them the championship. Even if he had made the play, it wouldn't have won the game. Nor would it have negated the team's collapse in the next game. In the same way, our sin will not cost us our salvation if we are holding on to Jesus (***1 Jn 1:7***). Your one sin did not and will not happen at the end of the game. There is still time to forgive yourself and keep ***pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:14)!***

--Alex Swango