

verse has been a stumbling block for many. Forgive us our debts as we ~~forgive~~ ~~forgive~~ forgive our debtors. What a prayer of works. What a denial of the Grace of Christ, to put his forgiving us to be upon the basis of our ~~forgiving~~ others. Now that, I would ~~say~~ see the force of that objection if it ~~w~~ said forgive us our debts as we do good deeds upon earth, or something like that. People have an idea of salvation by works an utterly false idea and they can be led astray, but I don't think they should be led astray by this verse. I never heard of anybody who said that our eternal salvation had as its basis the fact that we have a forgiving spirit toward others. There must be so much more involved in any salvation by works, that it is only reasonable to interpret this as here as not meaning the measure of our forgiveness nor the grounds of our forgiveness. But simply a realization of the fact ~~th~~at we cannot expect him to forgive us our debts if we have an unforgiving spirit in our hearts toward others who sin against us. As ~~Schaff~~ Schaff says, we feel as sure in His forgiveness perceiving in ourselves a readiness to forgive others which God Himself has implanted in us. As we pray forgive us our sins, He wants us to stop and think, look at here, you have been born again through the Lord Jesus Christ, you are saved, you're asking for ~~g~~ forgiveness, but do you have in your heart one of the things God won't forgive unless you are cleansed from it, you have an unforgiving spirit toward others. Even as we ask ~~Him~~ to forgive us He wants us to ~~forgive~~ think, and I shall forfeit my rights, the love of Christ, am I forgiving others who sinned against me as I should. Is His love being revealed in me? Forgive us our debts as we, if we are His, if we belong to Him, we are ~~forgiving~~ those who sin against us, and if we are, instead of coming to Him and asking Him to forgive us our debts, let's stop and see ~~if~~ ~~we~~ we've really been saved at all. Let's see if we need to come to the foot of the cross and confess our sins and ask Him to give us the ~~spirit~~ ^{spirit} of forgiveness, that He showed toward us who deserved nothing good at His hands. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us ~~not~~ into temptation. Mark Twain wrote a story which he called "The