

November 4, 2018
RELEASE - Part 2

“Accepting Forgiveness”

Our sins and guilt can enslave us.

Psalms 38:4 (NLT): “My guilt overwhelms me – it is a burden too heavy to bear.”

God loves you, and through His grace He wants to help release you from guilt and shame.

Psalms 32:1-2 (NLT): “¹Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! ²Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!”

Christ’s sacrifice paid the price for our sins, for all time, so that when we genuinely recognize what Christ did and seek him, we can be forgiven.

When we fail to receive God’s forgiveness, we suffer.

Psalms 32:3-5 (NLT): “³When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. ⁴Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. ⁵Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, ‘I will confess my rebellion to the LORD.’ And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.”

Through Jesus Christ, God gives each one of us the opportunity to put our past behind us and start afresh.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV): “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Many of us get stuck struggling to believe God could really forgive me!

Romans 5:6-9 (NLT): “⁶When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation.

We can refuse to accept what Christ has done for us, but that’s not what God desires for any of us.

1 John 1:9 (ESV): “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Psalms 103:10-12 (ESV): “¹⁰[The LORD] does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

If I start flying west, no matter how fast I travel, no matter how far I travel, I will never be heading east!

Psalms 32:6-7 (NLT): “⁶Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment. ⁷For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.”

Psalms 32:8 (NLT): “The LORD says, ‘I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.’”

Psalms 32:9 (NLT): ““Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.””

Forgiveness isn't about *feelings*, but a decision based on God's promises to trust Him and accept the gift He has offered us.

Psalms 32:10-11 (NLT): “¹⁰Many sorrows come to the wicked, but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the LORD. ¹¹So rejoice in the LORD and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!”

As our culture becomes more and more secular, there are fewer reminders of God's love and forgiveness for you and me outside the Christian community of faith.

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