

# **THE SIMPLE BIBLICAL MESSAGE OF FORGIVENESS: -**

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**NOTE: -** All Bible texts are taken from the King James Bible.

## **GOD IS READY TO PARDON OUR SINS: -**

- “Thou [art] a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness” (Nehemiah 9:17).

The Lord is “ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee” (Psalms 86:5).

“But thou, O Lord, [art] a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.” (Psalms 86:15.)

“The LORD [is] merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.” (Psalms 103:8.)

“Who [is] a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth [in] mercy.” (Micah 7:18.)

## **HOW TO OBTAIN MERCY AND FORGIVENESS: -**

- The wise man Solomon has left on record a very simple message concerning what we must do to receive mercy from the Lord.

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh [them] shall have mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13).

The prophet Isaiah has also a very similar message concerning what we must do to be forgiven, and God’s willingness to forgive our sins in the following verse.

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” (Isaiah 55:7).

- The apostle John has encouraged us with this simple gospel message.  
“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9).
- The apostle Paul has summed up the simple truth of the message of justification in the following words,  
“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” (Romans 3:28.)

## **OUR STANDING BEFORE GOD AFTER EXPERIENCING FORGIVENESS: -**

- The Psalmist David wrote a simple but yet wonderfully reassuring truth when he stated the following, “Blessed [is he whose] transgression [is] forgiven, [whose] sin [is] covered. Blessed [is] the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit [there is] no guile.” (Psalms 32:1 & 2).

That the above passage from Psalms 32:1 & 2 is indeed referring to a person who has experienced justification by faith, we are left in no doubt by the apostle Paul.

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, [saying], Blessed [are] they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed [is] the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.” (Romans 4:5 - 8).

## **WE CAN KNOW THAT OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN: -**

- The Psalmist stated concerning the sins of the children of Israel, “Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.” (Psalms 85:2).
- Our Lord Jesus Christ repeatedly exercised his Divine prerogative in forgiving people their sins throughout his public ministry. We have several very clear examples of Jesus having the power upon earth to declare that people sins had been forgiven them.

Jesus stated concerning the sins of Mary (See John 12:3) who anointed his feet with ointment and who is described by the gospel writer Luke as being a woman who “was a sinner” (Luke 7:37), that although “her sins, which are many”, they “are forgiven” (Luke 7:47). He repeated this simple message of peace directly to Mary when he told her, “Thy sins are forgiven” (Luke 7:48).

To the paralytic Jesus gave him the following message of peace before he healed him, “Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee” (Matthew 9:2). In this incident as recorded in the gospels, Jesus openly claimed for himself that, “the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins” (Matthew 9:6).

- The New Testament writers repeat the teaching of the prophet David found in Psalms 32 in their epistles. We can truly believe that our sins have been forgiven us for Christ’s sake when we have experienced justification. We have several inspired witnesses who testify to this truth.

The apostle Paul exhorts believers to be “forgiving one another,” because “God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32).

He also wrote in his epistle to the Colossians that God had “forgiven you all trespasses” (Colossians 2:13).

The apostle John has left us in no doubt that “your sins are forgiven you for his name’s sake” (1 John 2:12).

## **WE CAN HAVE A CLEAN RECORD WITH GOD: -**

- The gospel prophet Isaiah recorded the truth that no matter “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).
- God promises, “as far as the east is from the west, [so] far hath he removed our transgressions from us.” (Psalms 103:12.)
- The prophet Ezekiel has recorded the words of the Lord concerning the repentant sinner, who after having turned from his sins, is exhorted to “keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die”, and if he does this then “all his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him” (Ezekiel 18:21 & 22).
- The prophet Micah referring to the mercy of the Lord that he will “cast all their sins into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:19).

## **HOW ARE WE TO WALK AFTER WE HAVE EXPERIENCED FORGIVENESS?**

☞ Perhaps Jesus' own message of mercy to the woman who was caught in adultery sums up this whole issue,

“Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more” (John 8:11).