

# Forgiveness, Too Good to Be True

Genesis 50:15 - 21

“The tempter promised that eating the fruit would open Adam’s and Eve’s eyes, but he did not say what they would see. They saw themselves as sinners devoid of their original beauty. They saw good and evil only from the standpoint of sinners, from the rock-bottom level of corruption. They became like God in that their natures were fixed, but God was confirmed in holiness while they were confirmed in sinfulness. They now experienced the dilemma which the Apostle Paul described so eloquently: ‘For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do’ (Rom. 7:19).

In other words, they knew good but were unable to do it; they also knew evil but were unable to resist it. This is what depravity is all about; this is the human dilemma. Seeing their nakedness in a new light, they experienced shame and disgrace. In a pitiful attempt to replace the radiant garments of their innocence, they sewed together fig leaves. Man has ever since attempted to cover his guilt and his conscience. His efforts, however sophisticated and impressive, still fall far short of God's demands."

– J. Davis

# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

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- Am I really forgiven?

# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## **Psalm 32:1 & 2**

<sup>1</sup> How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!

<sup>2</sup> How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!

# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## **Psalm 32:5**

<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to You,  
and my iniquity I did not hide; I  
said, “I will confess my  
transgressions to the LORD”; and  
You forgave the guilt of my sin.

# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## **Psalm 86:5**

<sup>5</sup> For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.



# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## **Psalm 103:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.

# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## **Psalm 103:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## Isaiah 1:18

<sup>18</sup> “Come now, and let us reason together,” says the LORD, “Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.

# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## Isaiah 43:25

<sup>25</sup> “I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## **Isaiah 55:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while He may be found;  
call upon Him while He is near.

<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way and the  
unrighteous man his thoughts; and let  
him return to the LORD, and He will have  
compassion on him, and to our God, for  
He will abundantly pardon.

# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## **Micah 7:18a**

<sup>18</sup> Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession?

# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## **Romans 8:1**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## **Ephesians 1:7**

<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.



# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## **Colossians 1:14**

<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

# I. Problem Relating to the Past.

## I John 1:9

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## II. Wrong Solution.

“As you might expect, given his brothers’ checkered past, this plea for forgiveness was messy and, frankly, twisted – because it was introduced with a lie. Jacob had given no command to Joseph to forgive his brothers. There is no hint of this anywhere. In fact, there is no evidence that Joseph had done anything to cause his father to even imagine that he would harm his brothers. This cloaked their entire plea for forgiveness with a lie because not one word of it came from the lips of Jacob.”

– K. Hughes

## II. Wrong Solution.

### Concerning My Past

- Have I repented?

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- Have I repented?
- Do I wallow in my past?

## II. Wrong Solution.

### Concerning My Past

- Have I repented?
- Do I wallow in my past?
- Am I growing and serving others?

## II. Wrong Solution.

### Philippians 3:13 & 14

<sup>3</sup> Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing / *do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead,

<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



## II. Wrong Solution.

### Concerning My Past

- Have I repented?
- Do I wallow in my past?
- Am I growing and serving others?
- Do I live in daily awe of the Gospel?

# III. Joseph Offers Comfort.

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- He will not play God.

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- He will not play God.
- He sees God working good.