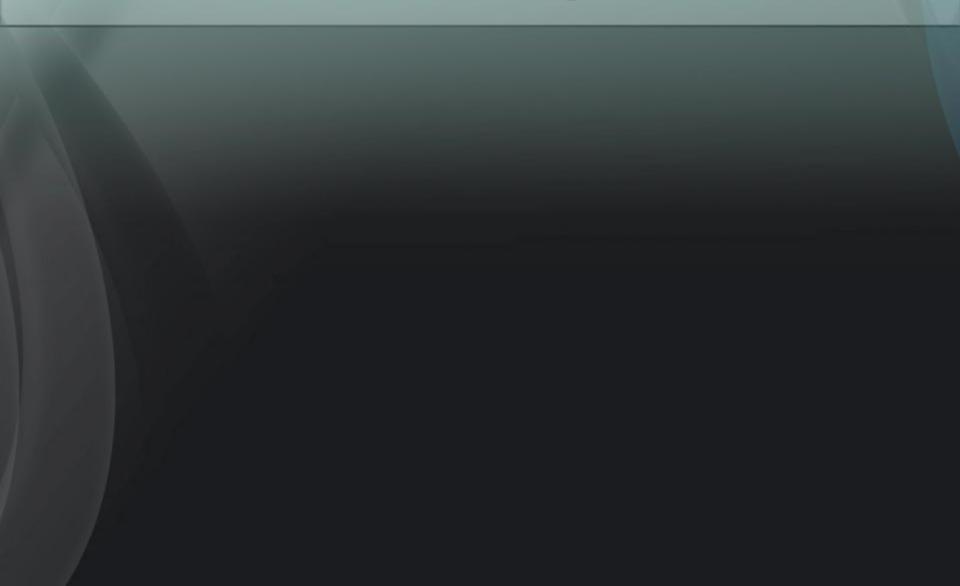
#### Forgiveness, Too Good to Be True Genesis 50:15 - 21

"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



Am I really forgiven?

#### 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!

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### 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.

#### 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.
- Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

#### Isaiah 1:18

18 "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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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?

#### Romans 8:1

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

#### **Ephesians 1:7**

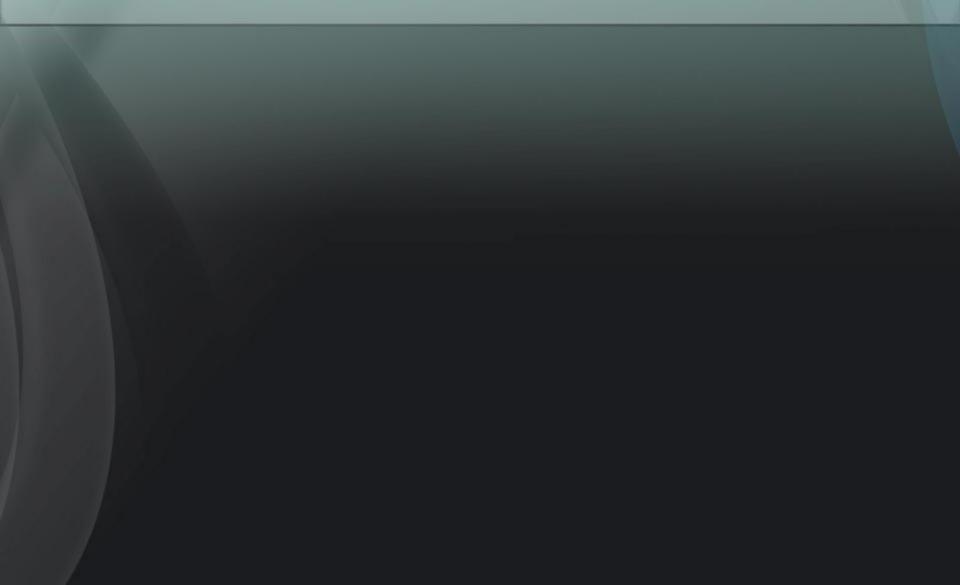
<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

#### Colossians 1:14

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

#### 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.



"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

#### **Concerning My Past**

• Have I repented?

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- Have I repented?
- Do I <u>wallow</u> in my past?

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- Have I repented?
- Do I <u>wallow</u> in my past?
- Am I growing and serving others?

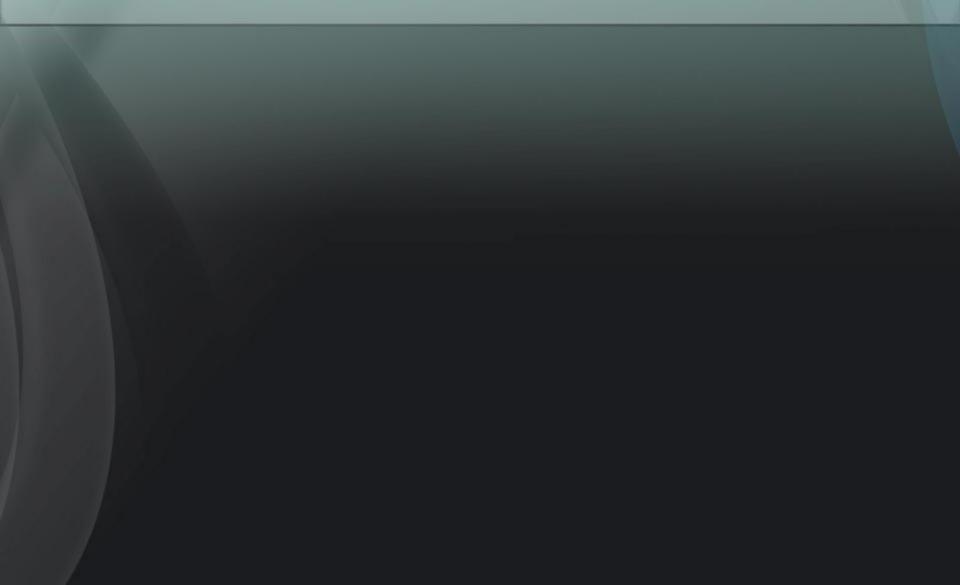
#### Philippians 3:13 & 14

<sup>3</sup> Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

#### **Concerning My Past**

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

## 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.