

FORGIVEN BY GOD

*“How blessed is he whose wrongdoing is forgiven,
whose sin is covered!” Psalm 32:1*



The wrong things we do (Biblically called sins) separate us from God. We need to be forgiven by God to get right with God ... to be ready for eternity. Biblical forgiveness is not God saying that He will overlook those sins and sweep away the eternal penalty for those sins. No, that penalty must be paid. The good news (the Gospel) is that Jesus [the sinless God-man] pre-paid that penalty for you with His blood in dying on the Cross. In a sense, He took your place. Jesus became your sacrificial substitution. But that is not enough. That payment needs to be applied to you ... credited to your account. The important question is, How does that happen? It happens when you repent (turn to God from your sins) and believe in Jesus. And then, and only then, you are forgiven by God.

OUR PROBLEM ... SEPARATION

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
Romans 3:23*

*“Your wrongdoings have caused a separation between you
and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you.”
Isaiah 59:2*

*“Dealing out retribution to those who do not know God,
and to those who do not obey the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus. These people will pay the penalty of eternal
destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and
from the glory of His power.” 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9*

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God
is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23*

*“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died
for the ungodly.” Romans 5:6*

GOD’S SOLUTION ... SUBSTITUTION

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,
so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but
have eternal life.” John 3:16*

*“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved
us and sent His Son to be the propitiation [satisfactory
sacrifice] for our sins.” 1 John 4:10*

*“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that
while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8*

*“He Himself bore our sins in His body up on the cross, so that
we might die to sin and live for righteousness.” 1 Peter 2:24*

*“But as many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave
the right to become children of God, to those who believe
in His name,” John 1:12*



YOUR PATH TO FORGIVENESS ... TO BELIEVE IN JESUS

“Of Him [Jesus] all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins,” Acts 10:43. “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast,” Ephesians 2:8-9. You can believe in (not just believe about) Jesus by repenting ... that is, by turning in faith to Jesus. This prayer is a way for you to do that. Pray it if, and only if, it is the true desire of your heart.

**Dear God,
I admit my need ... I am a sinner. I repent ...
I turn to You from my sin.
I believe in Jesus ... that being God, He died on the cross for me.
I invite Him to be my Savior.
Amen**

Jesus paid the penalty for your sins. And by believing in Jesus, His payment has become your payment.
You are forgiven by God. And Jesus said that you are safe for all eternity, John 3:16.

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If you prayed that prayer, you are forgiven by God and you are safe with Him for all of eternity. The sacrificial death of Jesus has given forgiveness to you. God has promised that you now have eternal life as your present possession ... that you will not come into judgment ... and that you have passed out of death into life, John 5:24. You are secure because no one can snatch you out of His all-powerful hand. He is holding on to you rather than you holding on to Him. Jesus said, *"I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand,"* John 10:28-29.

If you weren't ready to say that prayer, make it your highest priority. Your decision is of eternal importance and consequence. There are no second chances beyond the grave, *"It is destined for people to die once, and after this comes judgment,"* Hebrews 9:27. If you have unanswered questions that stand in the way of your decision, talk to the person who gave this to you.

Illustrations and Definitions

Forgiveness.

Forgiveness. Biblical forgiveness requires payment of the penalty for our sin. The penalty for sin is eternal separation from God. Biblical forgiveness is a transfer of your sin and its penalty from you to Jesus. God gave our sin and its punishment to sinless Jesus. And then God gave His righteousness to us. It is as if there were two books in Heaven. The first, your record book, has a mark in it for every wrong thing you have ever done. Its pages are covered in marks. The Bible clearly states that some things we do are sin (sins of commission) and some things we don't do are sin (sins of omission). Even some thoughts can be sinful. Three sins per day equals 1,000 each year. Over a lifetime, that's a lot of sins. The other book is the record book of sinless Jesus. Its pages are clean and spotless. When you believe in Jesus, it is as if the covers on those two books are swapped. Then the record book with your name on it is completely clean. Your sin and its penalty are gone.

A real solution.

Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me,"* John 14:6. The Bible's solution to our sin-caused separation from God is unique. Other religions require us to face eternity with our sins in hopes that whatever god might be there will overlook our sins. The way of Jesus is unique in that it forgives our sins ... washes us clean. Then we face God and eternity with our sins erased because they were transferred to Jesus. The Apostle Peter said, *"There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved,"* Acts 4:12. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time,"* 1 Timothy 2:5-6. The way of Jesus is the real solution.

Believing in Jesus.

Believing in Jesus is more than *believing about* Jesus. Imagine that you are an airplane passenger flying high above the mountains when all of a sudden the engines start to sputter and fail. The plane is descending to a fiery crash. The pilot instructs everyone to strap on a parachute and exit the plane through the open door. You've known about parachutes. You've seen them on TV. But now it is different. Stepping out of that plane's open door requires more than *believing about* a parachute ... it requires *believing in* a parachute. And some hiker's backpack won't work. Your survival requires the right parachute ... stepping out without it is sure death. Stepping out with a parachute is a 100% commitment of faith. You may have some doubts ... but survival requires full trust in the parachute. Jesus is the one true eternal parachute. Step out in faith. Believe in Him!

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