

Thank You For Your Mercy

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“Praise ye the LORD unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.”

Psalm 106:1

✿ Israel sinned, as did their fathers, yet God’s undeserved kindness to them spared them from what could have happened to them.

“We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.”

Psalm 106:6

✿ Israel forgot what God had done for them and again provoked Him to anger at the Red Sea (Psalm 106:7). God’s mercy rescued them from His wrath.

“Nevertheless he saved them for his name’s sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.” Psalm 106:8

✿ Israel forgot what God had done for them again (vss. 13-14), but His mercy “gave them their request” (vs. 15).

✿ Sins of envy (vs. 16), the sin of

Dathan (vs. 17), worship of the idolatrous calf at Horeb (vs. 19), and again forgetting what God had done for them in the past (vss. 21-22) should have also rained God’s wrath upon them, but God’s anger was mercifully spared from them.

✿ Again, and again (vss. 24-25, 28-29, 32, 34-39), these forgetful, sinning people were spared from what they deserved because of God’s mercy (vss.30, 43-44).

“In weighty matters, wait on God. Count nothing too light to be brought to His mercy seat.”

— C. H. Spurgeon

Israel repeatedly saw God’s hand of deliverance, provision, protection, and goodness to them, but they trespassed against God often. We are not much different than God’s beloved Israel. We too have often let Him down.

Are you glad that God is merciful? We do not get what we often deserve. He often spares us from the discipline and consequences we should be receiving because of His matchless mercy.

Thank you, Lord, for your mercy that we certainly do not rate!

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God’s Forgiveness

Bill Brinkworth

Of all God has done for us, one of His traits is the most appreciated. There would be no hope for anyone of us if it were not for that attribute. If it was not for His forgiving us of our sins, we would all need to be fearful of the eternity in the Lake of Fire that would await us.

“Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; 4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies;”

Psalm 103: 3-4

We can receive that excellent gift of forgiveness, not because of something we did or could do. We can receive God’s gift only because He is merciful. Although He knows of our sins, He often chooses to forgive what we have done and to waive the repercussions we deserve. He can heal all that ask and trust of their sin sickness (“... who healeth all thy diseases ...” — vs. 3).

God’s forgiveness is all-encompassing. In Psalm 103, we

see that God:

- Paid for (“redeemed”) our sins with the shed blood of His only son, Jesus. He did this so we could avoid the eternal punishment due to an unforgiven sinner. *“Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; ...” Psalm 103:4*
- Can give undeserved mercy (vss. 4b, 8, 17).
- Is gracious to us and does not always give us the punishment we deserve (vss. 8, 10).

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Psalm 106 reminds the reader of many of the offenses Israel committed against the God that did so much for them. With all their trespasses and failings, we see one character trait of God that kept them from getting what they deserved. Many times, they received God’s loving mercy.

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God's Forgiveness

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- Often stops being angry at some (vs. 9).
- Can put our sins far away from Him. Once He forgives us of our iniquities, they are as far away as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12). Those two compass points never meet, nor does our wicked past meet with God's judgment if we are saved (that is the only way God can forgive one of their sins).
- Knows what we are made of and knows that we are weak (vs. 14).

Christian, imagine standing in front of God and being reminded of ALL your unrighteousness. That will never happen to a child of God. We are forgiven.

No More Guilt!

Bill Brinkworth

Before Paul's salvation, he did all he could to serve God in his way. In so doing, he unknowingly became an enemy of God and Christians. He was responsible for killing many Christians and did much to slow the spreading of the Gospel. When he was saved, Paul became one of the sincerest servants for Christ.

No matter what he did after salvation, he still had a past. There was no way to undo what he had done. All he could do was go forward by doing the right things after being forgiven, and do all he could for the cause of Christ. He did that with all his heart.

"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." I Cor. 15:1

Many are plagued with a guilty conscience of their past, even after they are saved. Years ago, I remember listening to a Christian radio program where the host answered live scriptural questions. One caller, choked with guilt, called and told the host, "I am saved, I know I am forgiven, and my sins are forgotten, but I just cannot forgive myself, and that is why I am going to take my life." Immediately, the program was changed over to music, while I imagined the radio preacher dealt with the man's guilt and desire to take his own life. Sadly, many will not forgive themselves and still live a defeated life, even after salvation.

We all have pasts. No saved

person should have any joy in the wrong he has done. Most of us, if we could do it over, would choose never to have committed the sins we have, but we still had done them. No remorse or guilt is going to change our past. When we trust Christ for salvation, our sins are not only forgiven by God, but they are forgotten (Ps. 103:12). Our sins are under His blood.

Even though God knows all we did, He still offered us a way, by His grace, to His Heaven. Since he has forgiven and forgotten our past, we must also forgive and forgot what we have done.

Free from Guilt

Bill Brinkworth

Psalm 32 is a Psalm of instruction on how to have peace from guilt. From David's own experiences (many say when the prophet Nathan rebuked David from his sins of adultery and murder) we read how one can be happy and relieved when one's sins are forgiven.

All the anguish the king bore from his past sins were forgiven as can a person's sins today. In David's era, a sacrifice in the Temple would temporarily cover the sins of the people. Today is different. We do not have to present our sacrifices to God. One perfect sacrifice was given to cover ALL one's iniquities. The perfect sacrifice was God's only son, Jesus. Those

that admit their sinnership and trust Jesus' great gift to all mankind can have all their sins forgotten and forgiven.

Today's forgiven person can have as much happiness ("blessed" — vs. 2) as did David when His iniquities were forgiven. To have the peace that one's sins are under the sacrificed blood of Christ is a most appreciated blessing. David also knew about that peace as when he was forgiven, he could sleep peaceably and the pressure of guilt was gone (vs. 3).

King David got that peace that "passeth" all man's understanding when the sin was confessed to God (vs. 5). Although nothing is ever hidden from God, it is important we humble ourselves to the Lord and admit our transgressions. David confessed, and the burden of guilt was lifted.

We have all sinned. Most know what it is like to carry a heavy guilt-load because of our iniquities. It brings great peace and comfort to know that we are forgiven and cleansed by the blood of Christ.

When we stand before the Lord at the appointed time, we will not have our sins charged to our "account" They are all paid for by what Jesus did for us! *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."*

Rom. 10:9

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32