

## BLESSED ARE THE FORGIVEN

Psalm 32:1 “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”

Yesterday’s devotion’s theme was “forgive.” Today’s devotion expands on this theme. Yesterday the focus was on the fact that God forgives penitent sinners. Today’s devotion will focus on what God’s forgiveness means to the one forgiven.

“Blessed” is a common word in the Bible. It is used most always to describe a person who is in a good place in their life. It describes more than a “feeling.” When blessed is used in the Bible, it is literally an emotional and spiritual condition of being in a right relationship with God. It describes, as a Christian, who you are. You are blessed because your sins are forgiven and God has no reason to condemn or punish you. Your life is good because of the obedient faith in Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit has worked in your heart. This is the only way you can live a blessed life. You are blessed because you have God’s assurance of eternal life in heaven through Jesus Christ, your Lord and Savior.

God desires you to live a blessed life. Note how God described Himself to Moses, “. . . The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.” (Exodus 34:6-7) This is why God, in His love, sent His Son to save sinners from condemnation and eternal punishment in hell. (John 3:16-17)

Yesterday’s devotion introduced you to the Hebrew word kipper. This word was used in the Old Testament for God’s total and complete forgiveness of sins. God has erased every sin as if it never existed.

Only a person who is aware they have sinned, whether a “little sin” or a “big sin;” who is conscience of their willful disobedience of all of God’s commandments; who has struggled, repeatedly committing the same sin; who has “pet” sins that haunt them; can fully appreciate the blessing God’s forgiveness is through Christ Jesus. As a forgiven sinner there is no need for you to be afraid of God or His judgment. You are “blessed” because through the faith you have been given in Jesus you have received total and complete forgiveness of all your sins and the promise of heaven. As a forgiven sinner YOU ARE BLESSED!

Prayer: I am blessed, dear Father, because in Your love you sent Your Son Jesus to take away my sins. Thanks and praise to You! In Jesus' name. Amen.

How can I thank You, Lord, For all Your loving-kindness,  
That you have patiently Borne with me in my blindness!  
When dead in many sins And trespasses I lay,  
I kindled, holy God, Your anger ev'ry day.

It is Your work alone That I am now converted;  
O'er Satan's work in me You have Your pow'r asserted.  
Your mercy and Your grace That rise afresh each morn  
Have turned my stony heart Into a heart newborn.

Lord, You have raised me up To joy and exultation  
And clearly shown the way That leads me to salvation.  
My sins are washed away; For this I thank You, Lord,  
Now with my heart and soul All evil I abhor.

Grant that Your Spirit's help To me be always given  
Lest I should fall again And lose the way to heaven.  
Grant that He give me strength In my infirmity;  
May He renew my heart To serve You willingly.

O Father, God of love, Now hear my supplication;  
O Savior, Son of God, Accept my adoration;  
O Holy Spirit, be My ever faithful guide  
That I may serve You here And there with you abide.  
(LSB 703)