

THESIS — Ps 32 teaches the *Joy* of being forgiven. We must understand forgiveness!

1. **DEFINITION** of forgiveness (1-2) [what it is]
2. **MOTIVATION** of forgiveness (3-5) [why it's important]
3. **TRANSFORMATION** of forgiveness (6-11) [what it does]

I. THE DEFINITION OF FORGIVENESS (1-2)*What It Is*

- ***What is Forgiveness?***
 - ❖ promise of Pardon (Isa 43:25)
 - ❖ complete erasing (Isa 44:22)
 - ❖ not forgetting, but choice of the will (Jer 31:34)
 - ❖ a sovereign work of God (Luke 5:21-24)
 - ❖ a fixed state for every Christian (Col 2:13)
 - ❖ A communicated promise from Jesus (Luke 7:48)
 - ❖ Inseparable from Christ's substitutionary death (Matt 26:28)

3 words for **sin** in vv.1-2

3 words for **forgiveness** in vv.1-2

II. THE MOTIVATION OF FORGIVENESS (3-5)*Why It's Important*

1. sin affects you **PHYSICALLY** (3)
2. sin affects you **EMOTIONALLY** (4b)
3. sin affects you **SPIRITUALLY** (4a)

III. THE TRANSFORMATION OF FORGIVENESS (6-11)

What It Does To You

● **5 transforming qualities!**

1. he's praying! (v.6a)
2. he's protected! (v.6-7)
3. he's progressing (vv8-9)
4. he has a new perspective (v10)
5. he's praising (v11)

*How does one know if he is forgiven? What are marks of the forgiven ones? Forgiven souls...

1. Hate sin
2. Love Christ
3. Are Humble
4. Are holy
5. Are forgiving

“In nothing does the Lord appear more glorious, than in receiving sinners, and pardoning their sins. Here the largeness of his heart, the freeness of his grace, and the infinity of his love — shines forth in their meridian splendor. He receives so readily, he pardons so freely, and he blesses the pardoned criminal with such vast and varied blessings! Truly, we may well look up to Heaven filled with devout gratitude and awe, and exclaim with the psalmist, "You, Lord, are good, ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unto all those who call upon you." (James Smith!)

JC Ryle on "God's Forgiveness"

It is a **FULL** and **COMPLETE** forgiveness. It is not like David's pardon to Absalom, a permission to return home—but not a full restoration to favor. (2 Sam. 14:24.) It is not, as some fancy, a mere letting off, and letting alone. It is a pardon so complete that he who has it is reckoned as righteous as if he had never sinned at all! His iniquities are blotted out. They are removed from him as far as the east from the west. (Psalm 103:12.) There remains no condemnation for him. The Father sees him joined to Christ, and is well pleased. The Son beholds him clothed with His own righteousness, and says, "You are all fair, there is no spot in you." (Cant. 4:7.) Blessed be God that it is so! I verily believe if the best of us all had only one blot left for himself to wipe out, he would miss eternal life. If the holiest child of Adam were in heaven all but his little finger, and to get in depended on himself, I am sure he would never enter the kingdom. If Noah, Daniel, and Job, had had but one day's sins to wash away, they would never have been saved. Praised be God, that in the matter of our pardon there is nothing left for man to do! Jesus does all, and man has only to hold out an empty hand and to receive.

Furthermore, it is a **FREE** and **UNCONDITIONAL** forgiveness. It is not burdened with an "if," like Solomon's pardon to Adonijah, "If he will show himself a worthy man." (1 Kings 1:52.) Nor yet are you obliged to carry a price in your hand, or to bring an upright character with you to prove yourself deserving of mercy. Jesus requires but one character, and that is that you should feel yourself a sinful, bad man. He invites you to "buy wine and milk without money and without price," and declares, "Whoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Isaiah 55:1; Rev 22:17.) Like David in the cave of Adullam, He receives everyone that feels in distress and a debtor, and rejects none. (1 Sam. 22:2.) Are you a sinner? Do you need a Savior? Then come to Jesus just as you are, and your soul shall live.

Again, it is an **OFFERED** forgiveness. I have read of earthly Kings who knew not how to show mercy. The King of kings is not like them. He calls on people to come to Him, and be pardoned. "Unto you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men." (Prov. 8:4.) "Ho! everyone who thirsts, come to the waters." (Isaiah 55:1.) "If any man thirsts, let him come unto Me and drink." (John 7:37.) "Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28.) It ought to be a great comfort to you and me to hear of any pardon at all; but to hear Jesus Himself inviting us, to see Jesus Himself holding out His hand to us—the Savior seeking the sinner before the sinner seeks the Savior—this is encouragement, this is strong consolation indeed!

Again, it is a **WILLING** forgiveness. I have heard of pardons granted in reply to long entreaty, and wrung out by much importunity. King Edward the Third of England would not spare the citizens of Calais until they came to him with halters round their necks, and his own Queen interceded for them on her knees. But Jesus is "good and ready to forgive." (Psalm 86:5.) He "delights in mercy." (Micah 7:18.) Judgment is "His strange work." He is not willing that any should perish. (Isai. 28:21, 2 Pet. 3:9.) He would gladly have all men saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:4.) He wept over unbelieving Jerusalem. "As I live," He says, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Turn! Turn from your evil ways; why will you die?" (Ezek. 33:11.) You and I may well come boldly to the throne of grace. He who sits there is far more willing and ready to give mercy than we are to receive it. (Heb. 4:16.)

Besides this, it is a **TRIED** forgiveness. Thousands and tens of thousands have sought for pardon at the mercy-seat of Christ, and not one has ever returned to say that he sought in vain. Sinners of every name and nation—sinners of every sort and description—have knocked at the door of the fold, and none have ever been refused admission. Zaccheus the extortioner, Magdalen the harlot, Saul the persecutor, Peter the denier of his Lord, the Jews who crucified the Prince of Life, the idolatrous Athenians, the adulterous Corinthians, the ignorant Africans, the bloodthirsty New Zealanders, all have ventured their souls on Christ's promises of pardon—and none have ever found them to fail. If the way which the Gospel sets before us were a new and untraveled way—we might well feel faint-hearted. But it is not so. It is an old path. It is a path worn by the feet of many pilgrims, and a path in which the footsteps are all one way. The treasury of Christ's mercies has never been found empty. The well of living waters has never proved dry.

Besides this, it is a **PRESENT** forgiveness. All who believe in Jesus are at once justified from all things. (Acts 13:39.) The very day the younger son returned to his father's house he was clothed with the best robe, had the ring put on his hand, and the shoes on his feet. (Luke 15.) The very day Zaccheus received Jesus he heard those comfortable words, "This day is salvation come to this house." (Luke 19:9.) The very day that David said, "I have sinned against the Lord," he was told by Nathan, "The Lord also has put away your sin." (2 Sam. 12:13.) The very day you first flee to Christ, your sins are all removed. Your pardon is not a thing far away, to be obtained only after many years. It is near at hand. It is close to you, within your reach, all ready to be bestowed. Believe, and that very moment it is your own. "He who believes is not condemned." (John 3:18.)

Last, and best of all, it is an **EVERLASTING** forgiveness. It is not like Shimei's pardon—a pardon that may some time be revoked and taken away. (1 Kings 2:9.) Once justified, you are justified forever. Once written down in the book of life, your name shall never be blotted out. **The sins of God's children are said to be cast into the depths of the sea—to be sought for and not found—to be remembered no more—to be cast behind God's back.** (Mic. 7:19; Jer. 50:20; 31:34; Isa. 38:17.)

Psalm 32 - "The Joy of Being Forgiven by God!"**JESUS PAID IT ALL**

I hear the Savior say,
 "Thy strength indeed is small;
 Child of weakness, watch and pray,
 Find in Me thine all in all."

**Jesus paid it all,
 All to Him I owe;
 Sin had left a crimson stain,
 He washed it white as snow.**

For nothing good have I
 Whereby Thy grace to claim,
 I'll wash my garments white
 In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

And now complete in Him
 My robe His righteousness,
 Close sheltered 'neath His side,
 I am divinely blest.

JESUS LOVER OF MY SOUL

Jesus, lover of my soul,
 Let me to Thy bosom fly,
 While the nearer waters roll,
 While the tempest still is high.
 Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
 Til life's storm is past;
 Safe into the haven guide;
 Receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
 I helpless, hang on Thee;
 Leave, oh leave me not alone,
 Support and comfort me.
 All my trust on Thee is stayed,
 All help from Thee I bring;
 Cover my defenseless head
 In the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, are all I want,
 Here more than all I find;
 Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
 Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
 Just and holy is Thy Name,
 I am all unrighteousness;
 False and full of sin I am;
 Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
 Grace to cover all my sin;
 Let the healing streams abound;
 Make and keep me pure within.
 Thou of life the fountain art,
 Let me take of Thee;
 Spring Thou up within my heart;
 For all eternity.

PSALM 32: PSALTER (Isaac Watts, 1700s)

Tune: "There is a fountain filled with blood"

Happy the man to whom his God
 No more imputes his sin,
 But wash'd in the Redeemer's blood
 Hath made his garments clean!
 And blest beyond expression he,
 Whose debts are thus discharged;
 While from the guilty bondage free
 He feels his soul enlarged.

His spirit hates deceit and lies,
 His words are all sincere:
 He guards his heart, he guards his eyes,
 To keep his conscience clear.

While I my inward guilt suppressed,
 No quiet could I find;
 Thy wrath lay burning in my breast,
 And racked my tortured mind.

Then I confessed my troubled thoughts,
 My secret sins revealed,
 Thy pardoning grace forgave my faults,
 Thy grace my pardon sealed.
 This shall invite thy saints to pray;
 When like a raging flood
 Temptations rise — Our strength and stay
 Is a forgiving God.