



Forgiven and Free

Closing Devotion

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered (Psalm 32:1).

The prison chaplain visited the death row inmate whose life would soon end because of his crimes. As they talked, the inmate confessed to beatings, bombings, and murders. The chaplain quietly but firmly assured him that God was willing to forgive every crime. Incredulously the inmate cried, “**All** of them? How? Why?”

The chaplain told the story of God’s love for all men, the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, His death and resurrection. “God assures you through His Word that His grace is for you, so you can believe in Jesus and confess your crimes to Him, knowing you are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, you are a free man.”

No matter what the sin, God is big enough to forgive it. Something perceived as a “small” sin (telling a white lie, wasting company time with long lunch hours) or something thought to be a “big” sin (embezzlement, abortion, addiction) all disappear in God’s sight through His grace and mercy. *The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned (Psalm 34:22).*

Prayer: Lord, we have sinned against You and against others. Forgive us and help us to live according to Your holy will. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

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Mustard Seed: Comfort from the Psalms, 4/30
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Published by Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, ©2009
Adapted by CREC, 2017