

4/19-4/25 Congregational “Forgiveness” Prayer & Study-guide from the Psalms

Our weekly sermon series has brought us to a point where it was necessary to “Revisit” 1 Cor. 13:5 and our admonition that “**Love... keeps no record of wrongs.**” With the result that our message drawn from God’s Word is forcing us to consider, not only the forgiveness we have received; but also the forgiveness we are called to extend to others, because of what Christ did on the Cross. (See: Eph. 3:32; Col 3:12-14)

The Sermon messages from 4/19/20 and 4/26/20 are calling us to move beyond thinking of “forgiveness” in either strictly personal (*my gift of forgiveness from God*) or general terms (“*For God so loved the world...*”; to prayerfully giving God the permission to guide us to those in our lives whom we might need to extend the gift of forgiveness as well.

And that process can become difficult... After all, it took the Cross to make it possible!

It's been my experience that the best starting place for me to respond to others with any semblance of the grace filled forgiveness that I have received through Jesus;

- Is not by starting with what *was done to me*... (The past offence committed against me by another.)
 - But by starting with what *was done for me!* (Christ’s payment on the Cross for MY sins.)
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So this week, I’m asking for you to dwell in Psalm 32 for our entire week of Prayer. Make David’s story of forgiveness, your own! Talk with God about the process that He used to bring you from the heavy price of guilt; to a place of:

- “*Confession & forgiveness.*” (Psalm 32:1-5)
- And the “*blessed*” place of “*deliverance, guidance and joy.*” (Psalm 32:6-11)

And then from that place of what David calls being “*blessed...*” From that place where we can acknowledge OUR FREE GIFT; let us prayerfully consider others God might be calling us to extend alike forgiveness as well. (See: Eph. 3:32; Col 3:12-14)

For your consideration:

Psalm 32:1-2 “*Blessed is the one whose transgressions⁽¹⁾ are forgiven, whose sins⁽²⁾ are covered.*

²*Blessed is the one whose sin⁽³⁾ the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit⁽⁴⁾.*”

Original meaning for the different Hebrew words used for “sin”:

(1) “**transgressions**” = rebellion/revolt or “stepping over the line”

(2) “**sins**” = “missing the mark” we would call it “falling short.”

(3) “**sin**” = iniquity or guilt stain.

(4) “**deceit**” = self-deception or “lying to oneself.”

Consider during your prayer time how through the gift of forgiveness bought for you on the Cross, that God has in His great love “**covered**,” or “**not counted against**” you these various kinds of sin you have personally carried... And then how that same gift of grace calls us to “**forgive (others) as the Lord forgave you.**” (Col. 3:13)