

Forgiven-The Confidence it Generates
(Follow up to “Fruits of the Fall”)

God does now, and has always desired to be rich in blessing to His creation.
(Numbers 6:24; Psalm 145:8, 9)

- Consider the Creator’s “Divine Design”:
Every created entity functioning optimally...In harmony with every other created entity functioning optimally...glorifying the Creator. (Genesis 1:31)
- Then sin disrupted (and still disrupts) the intention for rich blessing. (Romans 8:22)
- The Messiah, Jesus, was assigned the task of restoring the relationship of full and complete blessing. He accomplished this (John 19:30) through His own righteous life and innocent death as substitute for all mankind. (2 Corinthians 5:21)



- All who believe in Jesus as substitute (saving faith) are being restored to the “Divine Design”, the completion of which will be accomplished for each of us when we arrive in Glory.

In the meantime...

- We remain on this earthly journey as ambassadors for Jesus.
- God has provided instructions for us to observe so that we may “travel” on the path where His blessing is the fullest. (The Law, Commandments, etc.)



- God still desires to bless (Matthew 7:11; 1 Timothy 2:4), but sin continues to be a part of our journey on this earth.



- (Of 113 times that sin is mentioned in the New Testament, 111 of those terms are **ἁμαρτία (hamartia)** which conveys the meaning “to miss the mark”.



To sin is to “miss the mark” of the richest measure of blessing that God would have for us as we make our way on this earthly journey. For sinners who trust that Jesus is their substitute, missing the mark does not condemn. Sinning does not cancel the salvation that is ours by grace, through faith in Jesus as substitute.

- Jesus’ work of serving as our substitute to accomplish our restoration was already assigned before the fall into sin. (Genesis 3:15)



FORGIVE- To let go, disregard, or keep no longer.

God’s forgiveness involves His letting go of our “missing the mark” for Jesus’ sake. (John 8:2-11; Acts 13:38,39; Hebrews 8:12)



As a result of our restored relationship with the creator, there is now NO FEAR OF THE JUDGEMENT! (Romans 8:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 1 John 4:17)

This faith in Jesus as substitute is everything to us. It can be as small as a spark, or like a raging fire, but saving faith just the same. It is the realization of the magnitude of this gift that draws us to the Ultimate Gift Giver, and nurtures the desire to grow and live more and more like Him, like Jesus. The motivation of the law is real, but short-lived. It is the realization that we have been and are being restored that motivates us with lasting impact.

GLOSSARY OF SCRIPTURE TEXTS (ESV)

Genesis 1:31

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

Genesis 3:15

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Psalms 145:8, 9

The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation. (NLT)

Matthew 7:11

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

John 8: 2-11

Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”

This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

John 19:30

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Acts 13:38-39

Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed[fn] from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:22

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Colossians 1:21, 22

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 2:3, 4

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Hebrews 8:12

For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.

1 John 4:17

By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

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