

“How Does God Forgive?”

Sunday September 16, 2007

Audio available at <http://www.kingstreet.org/audio/>

Text: Psalm 32:1-11

“Blessed is he
whose **transgressions** are **forgiven**,
whose **sins** are **covered**.

Blessed is the man
whose **sin** the LORD does not **count against**
him and in whose spirit is no deceit ...

Rejoice in the LORD and be **glad**, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!”

1. **There are 3 Hebrew words used to define ‘sin’:**

- a. **Transgression** – “To **miss** the mark”
- b. **Sins** – “To refuse a rightful **authority** in our lives.”
- c. **Sin** – “To be **bent** away, or to be crooked or to be bowed over.”

2. **There are 3 Hebrew words used to describe ‘forgiveness’**

- a. **Forgiven** – “To pick something up and literally **carry it away**.”

“They **carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave** in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre, which Abraham had bought as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite, along with the field.”
(Gen. 50:13)

“...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.” (Ps. 103:12)

- b. **Covered** – “**Unrecognizable** ... so that they don’t show anymore.”

“When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had **covered her face**.” (Gen. 38:15)

- c. **Not Counted against us** – “To determine something, to intend.”

“...he is to determine the value for the years since he sold it and refund the balance to the man to whom he sold it; he can then go back to his own property.” (Lev. 25:27)

✓ Leviticus 16 – Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement)

3. **There are 3 Hebrew words used to demonstrate our ‘response’ to being forgiven:**

- a. **Rejoice** – “To celebrate with wild, unrestrained **passion**.”
- b. **Be Glad** – “**Shout!**”
- c. **Sing** – “To shout with joy ... when the fire of God fell from heaven on the altar ... the people shouted for joy and fell down before him.”

“he who is forgiven little ... loves little.” Luke 7:47