

FORGIVENESS

A Lack of Understanding!

Misunderstanding 1: Forgiveness is just God overlooking our sins.

Misunderstanding 2: Views forgiveness as the spiritual equivalent of someone else paying off your maxed-out credit card

Misunderstanding 3: God forgives your debt then drills the error out of you



FORGIVENESS

A Lack of Understanding!

The first view above misunderstands the nature of sin, thinking it doesn't need to be removed

The second view misunderstands the scope of forgiveness by failing to realize that forgiveness means the removal not just of the stain of sin but also of the power of sin in our lives.

God is love, even when he is pulling us out of sin



FORGIVENESS

Hide and please don't Seek!

**We try to hide our sin from others
and from God, the spiritual bully**

**We hide it because we think
we can handle it**

**We hide it because we
don't want to stop**

**We hide it because we are
worried what God will do to us when he finds out**





Summertime
in the
Psalms

SEEK FORGIVENESS
FIND LIFE
Psalm 32

THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.

v. 1-2

Transgression: Rebellion against God

Sin: Turning aside from the right path

Iniquity: A distortion or deviation from the will of God

DISOBEDIENCE



THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.

Forgiven: Comes from a Hebrew word which means
“carried”

v. 1-2

Covered: Hidden or Out of sight

Not Count Against:
Present but of no value

IT'S NEVER FREE!

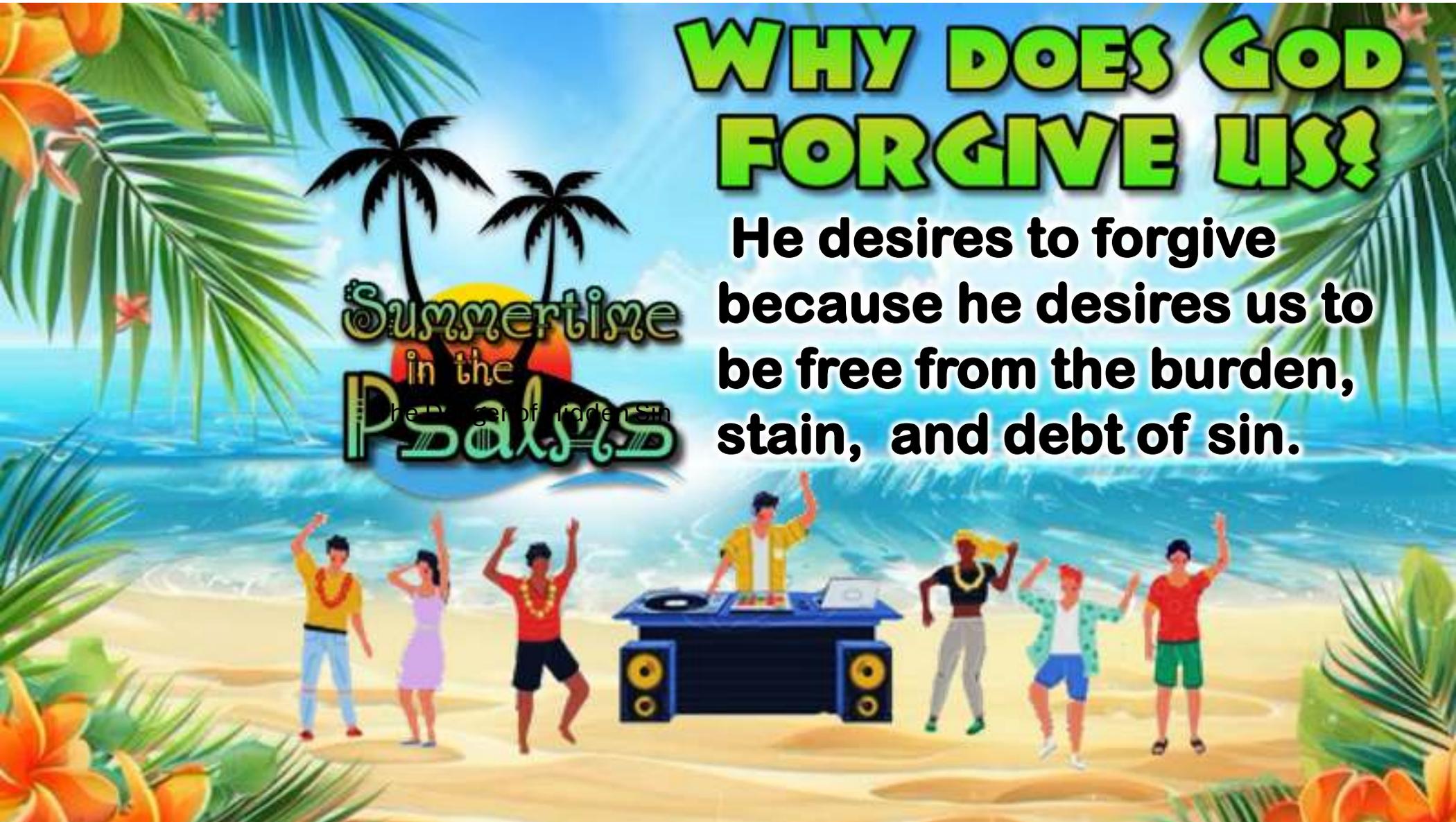


WHY DOES GOD FORGIVE US?

He desires to forgive because he desires us to be free from the burden, stain, and debt of sin.

Summertime
in the
Psalm

He is our Father of Mercy



THE DANGER OF HIDDEN SIN

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

The psalmist knows firsthand freedom of forgiveness because he has felt the burden of trying to conceal his sin.

v. 3-4

They refer to a time when he refused to acknowledge his sin before God

The result was that their sin ate them up



GOD HATES SIN!

Sometimes we fail to fully realize why God hates sin

Sometimes we think that God's laws are some arbitrary or overly strict rules imposed on us for no good reason

We need to realize God doesn't hate sin because He hates us

He doesn't hate sin for random or arbitrary reasons

He hates sin because He loves us. (Romans 6:23**)**

Death is sin's logical conclusion



THE FREEDOM OF CONFESSION

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore, let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

v. 5-7



THE FREEDOM OF CONFESSION

In our sin we hide because we think we are in trouble

We run from the One who is eager and able to deliver us from the destruction that we have created

We run because we like our sin

But we also run from God because we are worried about what He might do to us in His anger



The psalmist finally stops running and finds forgiveness. And in that forgiveness...



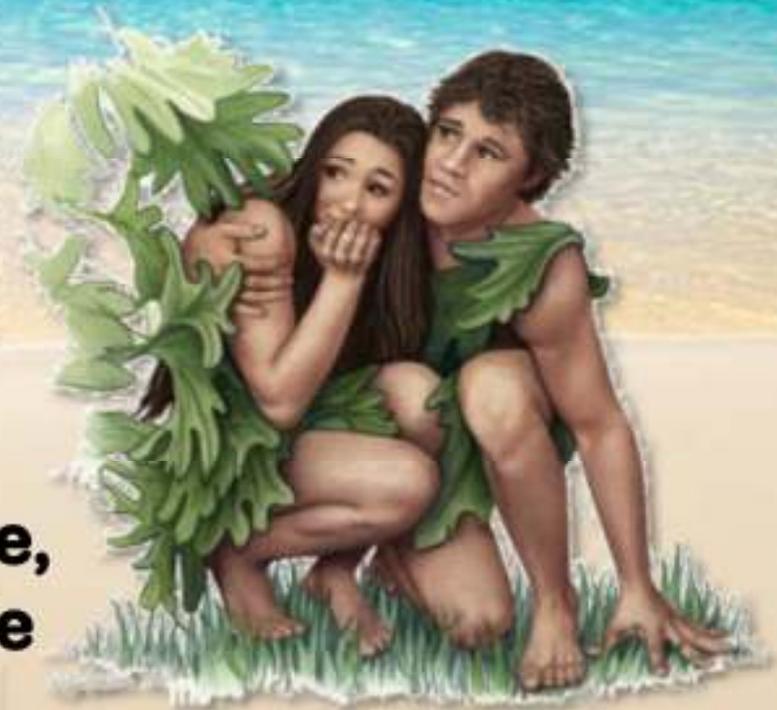
THE FREEDOM OF CONFESSION

Instead of anger he finds love

Instead of burden he finds rest

Instead of destruction he finds deliverance

**He realizes that God is a hiding place,
a safe place to run in times of trouble**



God preserves us and delivers us...even from ourselves...especially from ourselves



THE FREEDOM OF CONFESSION

It is worth noting that hiding from God is a pointless activity

He knows us better than we know ourselves

That is why in the New Testament the Greek word for confession means “to agree.”

We are simply agreeing with him about what it is

When we do that, we are finally in a place to see Him transform us by removing it from our lives.



THE PROMISE OF GUIDANCE

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

v. 8-11



THE PROMISE OF GUIDANCE

Sometimes we treat forgiveness as if it is the sum of the Gospel Message

We treat it like the end of Christianity

Forgiveness isn't the end. It's the beginning

God doesn't just save you **FROM** sin. He saves you **FOR** something else



THE PROMISE OF GUIDANCE

Deliverance from sin is the point that real life begins

“I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go.”

God got you off the path you were on that was headed for destruction



God will guide you on the path that He always had for you



THE PROMISE OF GUIDANCE



GOD LEADS

**“The lovingkindness
of the Lord shall
surround him.”**

Summertime
in the
Psalm

the King of Heaven



SEEK FORGIVENESS

Why do people run from the law in TV shows, movies, and in real life?

They know they have done something wrong

We tell ourselves, I'm OK, You're OK, We're OK, but we know, we are not OK!

This psalm teaches us that we should run to God not from Him

What we fear God will do to us; sin is already doing to us





Summertime
in the
Psalms

SEEK FORGIVENESS
FIND LIFE

