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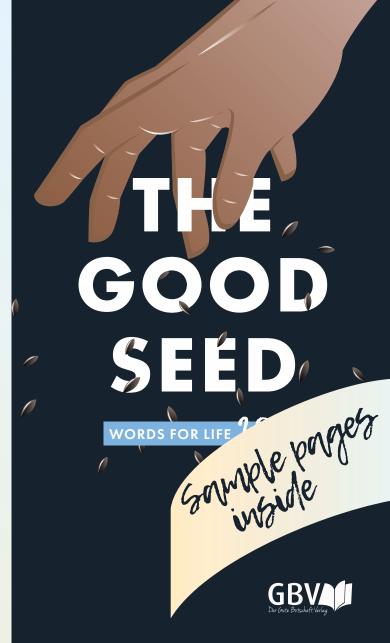
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(English)



Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has

Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.

Hebrews 10:17

What is forgiveness?

When we confess our sins to God, He forgives us. With that, the question of our guilt before Him is solved once and for all because the Saviour has wiped them away through His atoning death. God does not revisit them, for He will never remember our sins again. To help us grasp the significance of His forgiveness, He uses various images in the Bible:

- In his thanksgiving prayer for divine rescue, King Hezekiah expressed it this way: "You have cast all my sins behind Your back" (Isaiah 38:17). When God forgives sins, He no longer sees them. He doesn't see them anymore because He has cast them behind His back.
- The prophet Micah prayed with certainty to God: "You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19). When God throws sins into the deepest sea, they can never be brought back. Such is the magnitude of His forgiveness.
- In Psalm 103:12, we find another illustration: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." Unlike the clearly defined distance from north to south, the distance from east to west is immeasurable. That's how infinite the gap is between us and our sins

The assurance of forgiveness gives us peace and joy. Then we can say with David:

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Psalm 32:1).

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

Psalm 19:1

God speaks through creation

God is not far from us. He has not withdrawn Himself (as some claim). No, it is possible for us to know Him, for He speaks to us – through His creation.

David, the writer of this psalm, thinks of the starry world and says: "The heavens declare the glory of God". Today we know much more about the universe than he did: we see billions of galaxies with billions of stars, many of them larger and more majestic than our sun; we calculate in light-years, but find it difficult to comprehend this distance; our telescopes are getting better, and our space probes fly farther.

We recognise that the earth and the solar system are finely tuned and precisely tailored to human beings: our earth lies in the "green belt of the sun", and our solar system in the "galactic life belt of our galaxy" – and only there does life seem possible according to our understanding. All this indicates that God created the universe and that He placed us and our earth right there.

Nature does not form words – yet it speaks: it tells forth. Therefore, Paul later writes: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

Yes, God can be perceived in creation. Even if people don't have a Bible (or don't read it), they have the testimony of nature through which God speaks to them. That's why, when they stand before God, they will be without excuse: they could have recognised God's greatness and power, could have honoured Him and could have asked Him to reveal Himself more clearly!

everlasting life.

John 6:47

Only genuine faith saves

Jean François Gravelet (1824–1897), known as Charles Blondin, was a French tightrope walker. He became world famous for his crossing of the Niagara Gorge on a 340-metre-long, approximately 8-centimetre-thick tightrope at a height of 50 metres. His first crossing succeeded on June 30, 1859, before about 25,000 spectators.

In subsequent performances, Blondin took increasing risks. On August 17, he even carried his manager Harry Colcord on his back! About halfway across, it became clear to the spectators that the weight and length of the journey were taking a toll on Blondin. The rest breaks became more frequent. In the middle, where the rope swayed the most, Blondin struggled to keep his balance. With the desperation of a last-ditch effort, he managed to reach the first guy rope on the second half. However, as he stepped on it, the guy rope snapped, and the main rope jerked to the side! Nevertheless, Blondin regained his balance and safely carried Colcord across the gorge.

It is said that Blondin once asked a spectator, "Do you believe I can walk across the rope with a man on my back?"

"Yes," the man replied enthusiastically.

"Well then, climb on my back!" Blondin responded. But the man firmly declined.

This spectator is like people who admire Jesus Christ. Yet, when it comes to entrusting their lives to Him, they back off – despite there being no uncertainties with Him, the Son of God.

If our faith is only theoretical and doesn't bind us to the Son of God, it won't save us! Only Jesus can save us from the chasm of eternal separation from God and safely bring us to the other side – to the presence and glory of God.