

"GOD, CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?" "REALLY?"

(Eph. 2:1-5)

INTRODUCTION

We often hear people say, "God can't forgive me for what I've done" "My sins are too bad, too many, and committed for too many years" "I've done some awful things in my life" "I've disappointed and hurt too many people too many times" "My case is too difficult for God"

So we ask, "Is it possible for God to forgive me and put me back into His favor?" "Can God do that?"

The Bible's message is one of forgiveness and hope:

(Eph. 3:20) "Now unto him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think"

(Heb. 7:25) "he (Jesus) is able also to save them to the utter-most that come to God by him ..."

(Heb. 5:9) "he (Jesus) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him ..."

(Romans 5:20) "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound"

(1 Peter 1:3) "... his abundant mercy ..."

(Isaiah 59:1) "the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save ..."

(Psalm 84:11) "... no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly"

(Psalm 86:15) "a God full of compassion, gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth"

(Psalm 103:8) "plenteous in mercy"

(Micah 7:18-19) "pardons iniquity ... delights in mercy ... compassion on us ..."

YES! GOD CAN AND DID FORGIVE (a few examples):

1. **PUBLICAN** (Luke 3:12-13; 7:29-30; 18:9-14; 19:1-10)
2. **SINNERS** (Matt. 1:21; Luke 7:44-50; Romans 5:8-9)
3. **A WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY** (John 8:1-11) "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more"
4. **A MAN WHO DENIED JESUS** (Matthew 26:69-75; John 21:14-17)
5. **THOSE WHO MURDERED THE MESSIAH** (Acts 2:22-23, v37-38, v41, v47)
6. **THE IMMORAL** (1 Cor. 6:9-11)
7. **THE "CHIEF OF SINNERS"** (1 Timothy 1:12-16)
8. **YES! YOU AND ME** (Titus 2:11) "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men"

HERE'S THE BIBLE PLAN: Hear (Romans 10:13-14); Believe (John 8:24); Repent (Luke 13:3); Confess your belief (Acts 8:35-37); Be baptized (Acts 8:35-38); and now (1 Peter 2:2) "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"