



A guilty conscience is a cruel task master. It is something that is impossible to appease without a work of grace. Sin, violating God's Word, brings guilt. Time passing does not abate its force nor silence its cries for revenge. Change of one's locale does not placate it. Old age does not improve it. A guilty conscience must be dealt with in sincerity and truth, by the Lord's Word and with His help.

One cannot cover up a guilty conscience. When Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to hide their deed and even hide themselves from God. This did not remove their guilt. Achan stole a garment and some gold at the victory of Jericho [Joshua 7]. He immediately hid these forbidden items, but neither the deed nor his guilt went away.

Genesis 50 deals with the toll that guilt weighed upon the sons of Jacob. They had sold their brother, Joseph, into slavery, feigning his death and lying to their father about the whole plot, all because of greed and jealousy. Now Jacob is dead. And even though Jacob had graciously received them and their families, provided generously for their welfare, and had forgiven them for their unspeakable cruelty toward him, they had not dealt with their sin properly. They reasoned among themselves: "Joseph will hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him." [verse 15]

Finally, they openly confessed all that they had done against Joseph. His response? "Fear not...as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them." [verses 19-21]

We see several principles of biblical forgiveness in this account. It is a mark of a true believer that he exemplify these characteristics:

1. You cannot force forgiveness by attempting to make others feel guilty. Only the Holy Spirit can produce this godly fruit. [verses 16-17]
2. When grace has truly been received, it will be freely given. [verses 19-21]

3. God's grace kills bitterness. [verse 20]

4. The power of gracious words is unmeasured. [verse 21] The Scripture says that Jacob spoke "kindly" to his brothers. The Hebrew word has the connotation of "words of beauty, mercy and pity."

Our greatest need as sinners against God and His Word is His gracious pardon. God forgives those who acknowledge their sin and those who confess it before Him. We see this clearly in the examples the Bible gives: Zachaeus, the woman at the well, and the thief on the cross next to Jesus, to name a few. Sinners must confess [or admit] their sin. They must say the same thing that He says about their sin, giving up any attempt to justify actions, throwing themselves on God's mercy and grace alone. It is all based upon the Word of God. Jesus said, "Ye are clean through the Word I have spoken to you." [John 15:3]

#### MY FAITH HAS FOUND A RESTING PLACE

*Lidie H. Edmunds (E. E. Hewitt)*

*"My heart is leaning on the Word,  
The written Word of God,  
Salvation by my Savior's name,  
Salvation through His blood.  
I need no other argument,  
I need no other plea;  
It is enough that Jesus died,  
And that He died for me."*

For over seventeen years, Joseph's brothers had suffered under the tremendous weight of guilt, unnecessarily. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. Happy is the man that feareth alway, but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief." [Proverbs 28:13-14]

Thank you for helping us here at the Where God Is Blessing Broadcasting Network to get out God's message of forgiveness and grace.

Your servant,  
Chris Lamb

# GRACE TO YOU

WITH JOHN MACARTHUR | WEEKDAYS AT 5:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – WEEKDAYS AT 7:15 A.M.

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Since 1969 when John MacArthur came to pastor Grace Community Church located in Sun Valley, California, the emphasis of his pulpit ministry has been the careful study and verse-by-verse exposition of the Bible, one passage at a time. Under John's leadership, Grace Community Church's two morning worship services fill the three-thousand-seat auditorium to capacity. Several thousand members participate every week in dozens of fellowship groups and training programs, mostly led by lay leaders and each dedicated to equipping members for ministry on local, national, and international levels.

As John began writing, *Grace to You* became the launch pad for developing, editing, and distributing his books and study guides. Thanks to a loyal family of supporters, *Grace to You* became an independent, self-funded, nonprofit company in the early 1980s. *Grace to You* radio airs more than a thousand times daily on nearly 1,400 radio outlets in English and about the same number in Spanish, reaching major population centers with biblical truth. John's 3,400-plus sermons span more than five decades of ministry. All of John's messages can be streamed or downloaded without charge. *Grace to You Television* airs weekly on WAY-TV, channel 47-1.

Since completing his first best-selling book, *The Gospel According to Jesus*, in 1988, John has written over 400 books and study guides, including *Our Sufficiency in Christ*, *Strange Fire*, *One Perfect Life*, and *One Faithful Life*. In 2015, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary* series was completed. In its thirty-three volumes, John takes the reader detail by detail, verse by verse, through the entire New Testament. *The MacArthur Study Bible*, the cornerstone resource of his ministry, is available in nine languages and is also available as an App for smart phones and other portable devices. This all-in-one spiritual library contains John's personal notes on the Bible text as well as study resources including articles, charts, diagrams, illustrations, and maps which provide important background information on the cultural, geographical, historical, and languages of the bible. The *Grace to You* ministry believes that their role is not to supplant the local church's ministry, but to support it by providing additional resources for those hungering for the truth of God's Word. *Grace to You* meets the need for more in-depth resources, evidenced by the many Christians and Christian leaders worldwide who depend on this ministry to supplement their own study. Recognizing that the Bible is the very Word of the Living God, and understanding the priority of knowing and obeying its truths, *Grace to You* is committed to teaching Scripture with diligence and authority. Thus, the central ministry of *Grace to You* is the continuous imparting of biblical truth to the people of God that they may be better equipped to do the work of the ministry.

John and his wife, Patricia, live in Southern California and have four married children and fifteen grandchildren.

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