

**THE BLESSING OF GOD'S GUARANTEED WORK**  
**Psalm 32**

INTRODUCTION

[SCRIPTURE]

We're studying what the Bible teaches us about the blessings of the forgiveness of sin.

First, let's make sure we understand the history behind Ps. 32.

King David is known as the greatest king Israel ever had. In fact the Bible refers to David as a man after God's own heart. But David, like all of us, was also human and subject to temptation. David committed a grave sin against the Lord by committing adultery with a woman named Bathsheeba (2 Sam. 11-12). David tried to hide his sin but was eventually found out through a man named Nathan. Once the sin was revealed to David, David confessed to God and wrote Psalm 51 as a prayer of repentance. According to some experts, Psalm 32 is the result of David looking back and reflecting on what had happened with Bathsheeba and on the power of God's forgiveness.

Remember also from two weeks ago,

When WE BLESS we speak well of someone;

When WE ARE BLESSED we enjoy the favor of someone.

**The forgiveness of sin is a blessing because:**

**I, OUR SINS ARE NOT HELD AGAINST US (v. 1-2)**

HOW BLESSED is he whose transgression is forgiven, whom the Lord does not impute iniquity.

*[NET] How blessed is the one whose rebellious acts are forgiven, whose sin is pardoned!*

This is a great way to translate this first verse because it uses the phrase REBELLIOUS ACTS.

That is exactly what sin is – rebellion against God.

There are two words in these first two verses we need to get clear: TRANSGRESSION and INIQUITY.

TRANSGRESSION: One definition is how the New English Translation puts it: REBELLION AGAINST GOD. We see this in what happened with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. God warned Adam and Eve not to eat from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and they rebelled and ate.

INIQUITY: one man wrote this word means, “*absence of respect for the divine will*”<sup>1</sup>.

*[NLT] Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!*

God does not hold our sin against us, He does not charge it to our account.

*Think about it for a minute: a person goes into a store and decides to steal something, to shoplift. He slips it into this jacket and walks out thinking no one saw him. And on his way out, the greeter at the door tells him, “Have a good day sir, we’ll charge that to your account.”*

Sin is charged to our account until God clears that account. This is why Jesus went to the cross, to cancel out our sin debt, to clear our account of sin through His shed blood.

This is why it is such a blessing to have your sins forgiven because your record is clean

What does this last part of v. 2 tell us:

IN WHOSE SPIRIT THERE IS NO DECEIT.

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<sup>1</sup> Craigie and Tate, 266.

This simply means when God forgives, He clears the record and we can live with a clean conscience.

*PS. 86.5: For You, O Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon you.*

And because God is good and ready to forgive, so must we be ready to forgive.

*COL. 3.13: bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*

I have to be as ready to forgive others as God is ready to forgive me. Yes, we want to experience the blessings of forgiveness. But in order to do that we must forgive as well.

So the first blessing of forgiveness is that our sins are not held against us.

The second blessing of forgiveness is this:

## **II. OUR SPIRITUAL VITALITY IS NOT DRAINED (vv. 3-4)**

### **v. 3**

by keeping silent about his sin, David was either hoping no one would find out, or that the consequences and the awareness of the sin would eventually fade away. This is how we can act about sin, if we don't think about it or mention it maybe we'll forget, maybe it will go away.

*Prov. 28.13: he who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.*

#### v. 4

*Think about this for a minute: suppose you are a handy man and you not only do quite a bit of work around your house but you also perform quite a bit of maintenance on your car. One day you are working up underneath your car and for whatever reason the car falls on top of you. Now, you can't lift the car off of you because it weighs 1,000 pounds or so, and the weight is making it hard to breathe; someone has to get that weight off of you.*

That's exactly the way David felt as long as he carried that sin with Bathsheeba around with him, a weight so heavy he could not get rid of it.

HEAVY HAND: the conviction of the Holy Spirit would not let David off the hook. One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is conviction of sin. This is good because apart from the conviction of the Holy Spirit we don't know when sin is present.

One commentator wrote this about the heavy hand of God:

THE HEAVY HAND: *an awareness of the need to repent but a stubborn refusal to yield to God<sup>2</sup>;*

We get stubborn, we get our back up, and shall not be moved!

We can sin and nobody know about it. We can sin, we can hide sin, we can harbor sin, and no one may ever know about it. But here's the deal: God knows about it. There is nothing you can hide from God because He knows everything there is to know about us. And this is what makes the forgiveness of God so powerful; in spite of all he knows about us, He still forgives, He still shows grace and mercy towards us.

But when we sin and hide it or refuse to acknowledge it, then it is the Holy Spirit of God that begins to convict us. This means there is this uneasiness in our lives or a heaviness about

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<sup>2</sup> Craigie and Tate, 267.

our lives that is not right. One of the primary ministries of the Holy Spirit is the conviction of sin.

### **JOHN 16.8-10 [READ]**

David wrote about the blessings of forgiveness:

- 1, Our sins are not held against us;
2. Our spiritual vitality is not drained.

THE THIRD BLESSING OF FORGIVENESS;

### **III. OUR PLEAS FOR FORGIVENESS ARE HONORED (v. 5)**

ACKNOWLEDGED: simply means to know.

This does not mean that David forgot his sin, absolutely not, God's heavy hand of conviction was on him. It means that finally David owned up to the sin, David confessed to himself that yes, he had sinned, he had broken God's law, he had rebelled against God.

The hardest part of forgiveness is admitting and confessing your sin. When we confess our sin, we are admitting we have done something wrong, we are admitting we have broken God's law. When we can honestly look at ourselves and admit we have broken God's law, then we are in the place where we can be forgiven. But here is the truth about forgiveness: there will be no forgiveness unless there is confession.

1 JOHN 1.9: *if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

This is a guarantee from God, He will absolutely and completely forgive us our sin, all we have to do is confess. The hard part is confessing our sin, the easy part and the best part is that God already knows, He's just waiting to hear it from us. And when He does, He immediately forgives.

David wrote about the blessings of forgiveness:

- 1, Our sins are not held against us;
2. Our spiritual vitality is not drained.
3. Our pleas for forgiveness are honored.

The 4<sup>th</sup> blessing of forgiveness is;

#### **IV. OUR CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S HELP IS RESTORED (vv. 6-8)**

notice vv. 6-7 the results of confession:

Confidence that we can both go to God and that God hears our prayers,

Deliverance from the penalty of our sin;

Security in the total forgiveness of God;

Preservation of our relationship with Him.

v. 8:

Instruction and teaching comes from experiencing the forgiveness of God. The person who has been forgiven is the best person to teach on forgiveness and the need for the counsel of God.

Let me share something with you about the lessons God teaches us. The great pastor Charles Spurgeon once told a group of pastors, "Brothers, don't try to teach what God has not taught you." And this is true. The reason why I can teach and preach on forgiveness is because I have learned the value and blessing of forgiveness. This is the power of the

personal testimony. If you have been saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, then you have experienced and continue to experience the forgiveness of God. This is why the personal testimony is so great, no one can argue about what God has done in your life, and part of what God has done is forgive you. I can teach and preach on tithing because I do, I can teach and preach on forgiveness because I have been and continue to be forgiven. But if we don't forgive, if we harbor unforgiveness within us, our testimony has been damaged because we have not really learned the truth about forgiveness.

David wrote about the blessings of forgiveness:

- 1, Our sins are not held against us;
2. Our spiritual vitality is not drained.
3. Our pleas for forgiveness are honored.
4. Our confidence in God's help is restored.

Look at the next blessing:

#### **V. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S WAYS IS INCREASED (v.9)**

The horse or mule have no understanding of God's great works. David is not saying these animals are dumb, but what he is saying is they have no understanding of the secret ways of God. And by the way, neither do we.

This understanding is that God is the God of forgiveness. There is no sin that God will not forgive, you cannot do too deep or too far that God will not forgive you. There is only one sin that cannot be forgiven, and that is not on this side of eternity. If a person dies having never trusted in Jesus, they will die in their unbelief and will go to a Christless hell. This is why it is so important to trust Christ today while you still have time.

## VI. OUR JOY IS RESTORED (vv. 10-11)

v. 10:

to trust in the Lord is to have confidence in Him, to rely on Him, to know that if God does not come through it is just not going to happen.

because of the forgiveness of God.

What are we to be glad in? Well, let's just review the blessings of forgiveness as David has written about them:

Ps. 32.11: Be glad in the Lord . . . rejoice you righteous ones.

Why? Make it personal:

- 1, MY sins are not held against ME;
2. MY spiritual vitality is not drained.
3. MY pleas for forgiveness are honored.
4. MY confidence in God's help is restored.
5. MY understanding of the power of God's forgiveness is increased.
6. MY joy in the Lord restored.

*How do we apply Psalms 32 to our lives?*

*INVITATION:*

*When is the last time you took time to thank the Lord for his forgiveness?*