



PSALM 32

THE BLESSING OF BEING FORGIVEN

QUICK REVIEW

LESSON ONE

- » What does God do about our sins?

LESSON TWO

- » We must willingly involve ourselves in the process of forgiveness.

LESSON THREE

- » We must constantly confess our sins.

LESSON FOUR

- » God has promised to be faithful to forgive our sins.

ABOUT THIS PSALM

In this Psalm, David writes about the blessing of being forgiven. The title tells us that this psalm was a contemplation of David. This Psalm was intended to help someone to sit down and think about something for a long time, and to study it carefully. This is the first, but not the last contemplation of David. Psalms 52, 53, 54, 55, and 142 are also contemplations of David.

AUTHOR

The author of Psalm 32 is David, the son of Jesse from Bethlehem. We cannot say conclusively what exact event was taking place. It is quite possible however that this Psalm was written concerning David's sin with Bathsheeba.

THEME

The first verse of Psalm 32 declares: "Blessed is the person who has been forgiven of their wrong doing" (paraphrased). In order to really understand forgiveness, one needs to understand the word sin. Sin is not a popular word in our present generation. First of all, there are many who don't believe their actions should be judged. Secondly, there are many who don't want to be told there is such a thing as sin. The truth of the matter however, is that sin is a very real word.

The Bible has a lot to say about the subject of sin. Sin basically means to not do the right thing when you know what the right thing is to do. Sin means to miss the mark, to go outside the boundaries, or to be unwilling to confess you have done wrong. We all need to understand that if we don't take the word sin seriously, we will probably find ourselves in a lot of trouble. The Bible says that we have all sinned and fallen short of the expectations of God (Romans 3:23) and that the penalty for sin is death. (Romans 6:23)

The Bible describes seven things that God will do when we are willing to confess our sins and forsake them. The results God promises to do when we comply, speaks for itself as to how great a blessing this can be:

1. God forgives us. (I John 1:9)
2. God changes their color (can't be seen) (Isaiah 1:18)
3. God casts our sins into the sea of forgetfulness. (Micah 7:19)
4. God removes our sins as far as the east is from the west. (Psalm 103:12)
5. God casts our sins behind His back. (Isaiah 38:17)
6. God blots out our sins. (Isaiah 43:25)
7. God forgets our sins. (Isaiah 43:25)

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS//PSALM 32

THE BLESSING OF BEING FORGIVEN

Psalm 32:1-2: “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.”

QUESTIONS

Many people in the world today have no concept of what the word sin really means. What does sin mean to each of you? Why do you suppose God talks so much about not only forgiving us but also doing so much about taking our sins away?

PSALM 32:3-5: “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. 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.”

QUESTIONS

Can you relate to the strife David experienced after not confessing his sin and thus failing to embrace God’s forgiveness? How are you impacted when you fail to confess your sin and wrap yourself up in God’s grace and forgiveness?

Psalm 32:6-7 & 10-11: “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. 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.”

QUESTIONS

First, David says for the godly to offer prayer at a time when God can be found – when, exactly, can God be found? What is David communicating about when and how believers should be approaching God through prayer? How is God’s steadfast love completely unlike human love or love as the world and our culture views it?

Have a discussion about these four statements:

- 1: There is no sin so great that God cannot forgive.
- 2: There is no sin so small that you can afford to keep it hidden.
- 3: The weight of lies is too great to endure for any period of time.
- 4: The longer you wait to come clean, your physical, emotional, and spiritual health will deteriorate and die.

CLOSING SCRIPTURES

- » Numbers 32:23: “But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the LORD; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out.”
- » Proverbs 28:13: “Whoever conceals their sins will not prosper, but the one who confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”
- » I John 1:7: “... if we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- » John 3:32: “... the truth will set you free.”