

Psalm 32 Confession and Forgiveness

by Pastor Roy Hogan

The sin issue has been swept under the rug in today's society. Just what is sin? Sin is any violation of God's precepts, that is, God's commandments. Today, sin is popular. Sin is in style. I will never forget what Brother Lester Roloff once said- "Hollywood has put sin in lace and a tuxedo, but sin still stinks in the nostrils of God." Brother Roloff also said "God burned Sodom for the same sin America now condones." I say "amen."

A born-again child of God walking in the light of God's fellowship hates sin. Do you hate sin? If not, you have a spiritual problem. Either you have never been saved, or you are saved and walking outside the shadow of the cross. I say often "the sin I hate the most is *my* sin." I do not hate sinners; I hate sinners' sins. Jesus Christ hated sin. When he confronted sin in his earthly walk, he rebuked it. This society praises sin. Judgment Day is coming.

Every sin committed in the course of history will be reconciled with God. There is no negotiation with God. There is no bartering with God. At one time in history, the Catholic faith sold license to sin. There is no *license to sin* issued by God. He never looks the other way in regard to sin. He never forgets sin. Sin is reconciled in only two ways; it will be judged in the courtroom of a holy God, or, it will be forgiven by and through the shed blood of God's Son Jesus Christ. When we repent of our sins, God is faithful to forgive. We often call this *placing our sin under blood*.

If a person desires to know the ins-and-outs of sin, speak to King David who is the man God used to write this Psalm. He was involved in one of the most egregious sins recorded in the Bible. So, as we discuss this 22nd chapter of Psalm, we are hearing from an experienced sinner. He has been called a *great* sinner. However, all sin is equal before God. Granted, some sins are further-reaching and cause more damage than others. David's sin influenced an unborn baby, a family, an army, and a nation of people. David's sin with Bathsheba equipped the enemies of Israel in their condemnation of that nation. The affair with Bathsheba is one of the most stunning transgressions recorded in the Bible.

The word *Selah* is sometimes recorded at the end of a verse in the Bible. *Selah* means "pause and meditate." Three times *Selah* appears in this chapter. David's sin was so urgent, God wanted you and I to pause and think about some the message of sin as told in this chapter. It is high time the world pauses and meditates concerning sin before it is too late. The wages of sin are death. Judgment Day is around the corner.

32:1-2

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

In the first two verses of the chapter, David takes a look at his sin. He uses four terms in the two verses to describe his wrongdoing: transgression, sin, iniquity, and guile. These four words are powerful and each one sheds light on just exactly what sin is. *Transgression* means defiance. Sin makes a person a rebel. Sin defies that which is right and good and honest. Sin revolts against lawful authority. A sinner is a rebel. A child will sometimes defiantly tell a parent “no” in regard to a command. The child will test the authority of the parent by using defiance. A defiant child is saying to the parent “do you really have the authority to tell me what to do?” The parent may say to the child “pick up your toys.” The child’s response is “no.” “Go sit down.” “No.”

The word *sin* refers to a defect. The Hebrew root word means “to miss the mark” or “to fall short.” If there is sin in a person’s life, that person has a defect. We all have defects in our life. I may not see your defects and you may not see mine, but our heavenly father sees them all. What must sin look like in the eyes of a holy God? It is surely awful. I once painted a room using what I believe to be the most breath-taking paint color I have ever seen. As I stood back and beheld the freshly painted room, it took less than five seconds to notice a small place I had missed. You and I are a beautiful creation of God. Mankind is the epitome of God’s creation. The apple of God’s eye is not the planets, but humanity. Sin is ugly to God. Sin is ugly to children of God walking the in the light of fellowship with God. Do you consider sin to be ugly?

The third word used by David to describe his wrongdoing is *iniquity*. This word comes from a Hebrew root denoting *perverseness*. Further, the root of the word means “bent” or “crooked” or “warped.” Sin warps human beings. Sin bends straight people. I once saw a billboard that seems to never leave my mind. The billboard was split in the center. There was a large photo on the left half and a large photo on the right half. The photo on the left was the face of a beautiful young teenage girl. The caption on the photo read “homecoming queen.” The right half had a second photo of the same girl. Her face was disfigured. She looked years older. Could this possibly be the same person? The caption read “meth queen.” What went wrong? Sin warped her. What was once a straight life had been made crooked. Sin is awful.

The fourth and final word used by David in reference to sin is *guile*. This word needs little discussion. Guile means *deception*. It stands for *duplicity*. When a person's life is described by the term duplicity, it bears the meaning that that person is living a life of double standards, double thoughts, double speech, and double actions. Have you ever met a guile person? They are one person on Sunday and another person on Monday. They say one thing and do another. We sometimes look over folk like this thinking maybe they have a flawed mind or have inherited a weak trait. No, they are acting out their sin. They do not curse, but they do something just as bad. They say one thing and do another. They promise to be here and don't show up. *Guile* is sin and the Baptist church is filled with guile people. A man who says he will do thus-and-thus for the church and does not do what is promised is not only a liar, but is a guile person. That person is on the same level as the transgressor and the deceiver.

Having studied the first two verses of Psalm 32, I am now more convinced than ever that sin is a giant issue. It is no mystery that Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross to reconcile mankind's sin unto God.

David rejoices in the fact *his* sin has been reconciled before God. Have you been to the Cross of Calvary to have your sin reconciled? David considers himself to be *blessed* knowing his sin is *forgiven*, verse 1, covered, verse 1, and *not imputed*, verse 2. *Forgiven* means "to be lifted up and carried away." I met the Lord as my savior April 11, 1965. That day around noon, God loaded up my sin and hauled it away. I never stopped sinning that day in 1965, but I stopped *wanting* to sin that day. Since that day, sin has bothered me. So, daily, before I fall asleep on my pillow, I am Jesus Christ to make one more trip. "Dear Jesus, please bring your truck and gather up another load of sin and take it away and dump it in the ocean of forgetfulness." As of this writing, I have been saved 19,731 days. That is a lot of trips and a lot of hauling. It is a good thing that it does not matter to grace what the price of gas is. Bless the name of the Lord.

As stated in verse 1, I am blessed that my sin is covered. The *blemish* is out of sight. It has been, as of this writing, 19,731 days since Father God has seen even one of my sins. Oh yes, the gossipers and the whisperers have, but not Jehovah God. As far as I know from reading God's Word, gossipers and whisperers will never have opportunity to sit on a throne of judgment with me bowed before them.

I, and you alike, are *blessed* that our sin is not *imputed*, verse 2. To impute our sin means that the debt of our sin is not reckoned. Our sin debt is not on a ledger somewhere. We receive no invoices in the mail stating "payment due."

We got no phone calls from debt collectors. The debt is cancelled. There is an illustration I have heard from my childhood I wish to share with you. A country doctor in a small rural town had a successful practice. Years passed, time took its toll, and the country doctor passed away. Doctors are commonly considered to be wealthy. So, the town folk were anxious for the day when the deceased doctor's estate would be revealed. To everyone's demise, the doctor had left no wealth. His estate was rather meager. To further investigate, the ledger of his medical practice was opened and examined. Written on the page of patient after patient's record of account were these words: *debt cancelled- too poor to pay*. Oh, what a Savior. No wonder Father God could not look upon his Son on the cross of Calvary. The sum of the canceled debt was enough to bankrupt heaven.

God *carried* my sin away, he *covered* my sin, and he *canceled* my sin. I am a winner in Christ Jesus.

32:3-4

*When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.
4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into
the drought of summer. Selah*

In verse 3 and 4, David discusses the penalty of sin. The pain he speaks of in these two verses was experienced at the time in his life when he was trying to conceal his affair with Bathsheba. This we know from the words "when I kept silence" in verse 3. A good coat of paint can help even the most soiled house look like new. Tide washing detergent can make your dirty work clothes look nice again. There is no paint that will cover sin. There is no chemical that will dissolve it away. Sin must be reconciled with God. God wrote the law. When we sin, we break God's law. If I am caught speeding in the state of Tennessee, I do not reconcile the transgression in Georgia. When I break God's law, I must reconcile the transgression with him. I am glad I have a good advocate, Jesus Christ, who is the son of the judge.

Silence is not the answer to sin. In these two verses, David speaks of the pain and suffering he went through while hiding his sin. David was a healthy man, but not anymore, his *bones waxed old*. Hidden sin will make one old. A burdened soul and a burning conscience make one age quickly. All the day long he *roared*, that is, he was troubled. A conscience tainted by sin with walk with you every step of the day and go to bed with you at night. How could he govern a nation in such a pitiful state of spirit and mind? *Silence* is not the answer to sin. His sin was not hidden from the palace or even from the community. Sin is impossible to hide. David tried but failed to hide his sin.

Numbers 32:23 *But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.*

Because of hidden sin, David's *moisture is turned into the drought of summer*. Think a moment about a drought. The effect is almost always awful. Plants die. Trees lose their foliage. Crops fail. Water reservoirs dry up. There is nothing positive to say about a drought. Have you ever experienced a drought in your life? Your moisture is gone, that is, your joy and happiness and will to live fade away and become parched ground.

32:5

I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

God delights in forgiving sin. For that I am grateful. Maybe we as preachers preach too much regarding sin, but it is a serious matter that we keep our sin confessed before God. It took the Prophet Nathan sticking his finger in the face of David to get him to come clean with God. We sometime pray "if I have offended you, dear God, in any way, please forgive me." David acknowledged his sin before God. He owned-up to it. Yes, it can be difficult to ask for forgiveness because of pride. David rolled his sin out before God. It is hard to pardon an innocent man. President Gerald Ford pardoned Richard Nixon for the accusations brought against him regarding the Watergate scandal. How was it possible that Nixon be pardoned for to the end he maintained that he was *not guilty*? How can God forgive a man who maintains he has not sinned? Half the prisoners that I have every spoken to claim they were framed, and that they are innocent. Such is the plight of many believers. Unless we own up to it, he cannot forgive it.

32:6-7

For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. 7 Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah

We see in these two verses great benefits of a forgiven man. Sin separates us from the good things God has for us. Verse 6 speaks of a *godly man*. A godly man is one clean and honest before God. A godly man has no hidden sin. Because we are forgiven, we have access to God through prayer. It is impossible to reach the throne of God praying through a veil of sin.

Verse 6 speaks of the storms all men face. Aren't you grateful we can go to God in time of trouble! Prayer can hold the flood waters at bay. Further, in time of trouble verse 7 promises us we have a hiding place from the storm. Trouble comes and we can go to God ask for a safety harbor. He will provide a hiding place.

Finally, in verse 7 we find a forgiven man has praise in his heart toward God. Wealth is fine. Good health is wonderful. Peace with family and friends feels good. Above all, though, praise to the Heavenly Father is a pure delight. The joy of praise can overcome an misery life has to offer.

32:8-9

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. 9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

Consider a person who has been charged with a crime. The person is tried and found guilty. The sentence is given and the guilty serves to time incarcerated. Then comes the glad day when the prison door is unlocked and the person walks free. The debt has been paid. Does that person walk out of the prison a wise man for having committed a crime and served the sentence? The answer is an obvious *no*. Not one of God's children can navigate confusing life in this complex world in which we live. Even the choice men and women of God, as was the Apostle Paul, asked for guidance from God.

Be not, as a child of God, like unto a horse or mule. A horse wants to run away, and a mule wants to stand still and not move. Have you even been a horse or mule in the eyes of God? God does not want to have to handle one of his children like they are a brute beast. The only way a horse or mule can be led is by a bridle. A sheep, on the other hand, follows the shepherd. We are to be sheep- not mules or horses.

32:10-11

Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about. 11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Hiding sin is never the right thing to do. We have a God who delights in forgiveness.