

Text: Psalms 51

Title: **The Penitent's Psalm**

Introduction:

- A.) **The superscription of both the author and the occasion of it's composition.**
- B.) **For the history of the painful circumstances, see 2 Samuel 11-12**
- C.) **That the psalm is addressed "To the Chief Musician," shows that it was not merely a private confession of the poet's guilt, but a public expression of his penitence.**
- D.) **David wrote this psalm not for himself alone but for the people, that he might edify, by his repentance, the people of God whom he had offended by his sin.**
- E.) **Til then, he had no rest in his bossom**

Psalm 32:2 The Holy Bible, King James Version

- ¹ 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.
- ³ 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 drouth of summer. *Selah*
- 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*

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- ³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. *Selah*
- ⁵ 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. *Selah*

- A.) **D.) Nature must have struggled hard against this publicity in the confession of the sin**
- B.) **The design of the publicity he gives us in v.13**
- C.) **He would, through his repentance, lead others to the same.**

I.) The Penitent's Confession

A.) Confession is not a single act.

B.) It consists of at least three things

1.) A Right Estimate of Sin

a.) The true penitent regards sin as not merely misdirection, but a violation of Divine Law

2.) A Right Feeling in Relation To Sin

a.) Sincere penitent loathes sin and grieves for having grieved his God

3.) Right Conduct in Relation to Sin

b.) He endeavors to forsake sin, and follow after holiness

The psalmist, in his confession, recognized:

C.) Recognises the Evil of Sin

He regards it as

1.) As an unrighteous thing

a.) *"mine iniquity"*

b.) Sin is a reversal of true moral relations and order

c.) Acts 17, *"cosmos"*; order

2.) As a breach of moral law

a.) *"my transgressions"*

b.) By his sins he had violated the holy laws of the supreme and gracious Sovereign

3.) As a defiling thing

a.) He felt himself utterly polluted by his sin

b.) He asks over and over for cleansing

Thus David recognizes the essential evil of sin, and its injurious influence upon human life and character.

He does not attempt to palliate its wickedness

He exhibits unmistakably it's blackness, and deformity

D.) Recognises the sin as his own

- 1.) *"MY iniquity; MY sin...."*
- 2.) We are prone to try to shift the responsibility of our sin from ourselves
 - a.) i.e. Eve, Saul
- 3.) *We blame the circumstances in which we are placed, i.e. society*
- 4.) *Or the temptations by which we are assailed; i.e. Flip Wilson "The devil made me do it."*
- 5.) **We blame the tendencies we have inherited, i.e. heredity**
- 6.) **We blame training we have received; i.e. Parents**
- 7.) **We find NONE of that in the pertinent Psalm**
- 8.) **David feels that the sin and guilt of his crimes were his and his only**

"I have sinned.."
"I acknowledge my transgressions"

E.) Regards sin as hostile to God

Psalms 51:4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest.

- 1.) **God has no complicity with evil**
- 2.) **Sin ever to Him "...the abomitable thing which the Lord hates"**

II.) The Penitent's Prayer

A.) Forgiveness of his sins

Psalms 51:9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

- 1.) Confession and forgiveness are inseparable

Psalm 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.

3Luke 17Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. ⁴And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

1 John 1:9 ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2.) The completeness of forgiveness

v.1 “blot out my transgressions”

Isaiah 44:22 ²²I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee

“Hide thy face from my sins”

“cast all my sins behind thy back”

B.) Cleansing and renewal of his spirit

v.2 wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

v.7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

C.) Restoration of the joy of salvation

1.) That original excitement and enthusiasm

D.) Preservation from sin and ruin.

III.) The Penitent’s Resolution

A.) He will seek the conversion of sinners

1.) He will seek to lead others to the source of his blessings

B.) He will worship God

C.) The whole church will praise God

IV.) Conclusion