

PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Psalm 32:1-11 (NASB)

¹ How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!

² How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

³ When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away *as with the fever heat of summer*. Selah.

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.

⁶ Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.

⁷ You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

⁹ Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, *Otherwise they will not come near to you.*

¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked, But he who trusts in the LORD, lovingkindness shall surround him.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

Psalm 32: God's Blessing of Forgiveness

For a year after his sin of adultery, David was as one condemned and in utmost misery. [Psalm 51](#) was written in penitential struggle. [Psalm 32](#) was written after deliverance when David experienced inner peace. The theme of this psalm is the rich treasures learned from the very depths of inward need: the blessedness of forgiveness and the sincere and unreserved confession of sin as the way to know that forgiveness. When we experience God's forgiveness, we experience His mercy and loving care.

David wrote of his experience as a sinner and the consequences of his attempt to cover his sin. He had suffered physically because of the terrors of remorse. We are also given another side to this story, the blessedness of forgiveness. David was blessed because his sins were taken away. He gave us the formula for forgiveness: true confession of our sin. This psalm teaches us that whoever truly confesses their sin is forgiven by God and that person is no longer a wretched sinner. The worst sinner, forgiven by God, is a happy person.

While this psalm is one of the saddest, it is at the same time one of the most joyful. Do not ever let Satan rob you of the knowledge of forgiveness. He is the accuser of the brethren. His job is to try to nullify what God has done for you. He wants to use his tool of intimidation and discouragement to defeat you in your walk with God. Believe God and His Word of promise that He has forgiven you if you have acknowledged and confessed and renounced sin in your life.

The teaching in this psalm on the forgiveness of sin is exactly as is taught in the New Testament. Forgiveness is with God. It is given of His free grace and for His name's sake. It is given to all who confess and desire to forsake sin. His forgiveness, assured to us by the Word of God, cleanses and clears us from every charge of guilt. Before God, we are as if we had not sinned. This is one of Paul's chief arguments on justification in [Romans 4:6](#): ***"Just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works."*** We are pardoned because Christ loves us. That knowledge of His forgiving love melts our hearts. Jesus taught that there must be this experience of forgiveness before there is a real and deep love. To minimize sin and have little to say about pardon produces a cold and stagnant Christianity.

Because of the grace of God in forgiveness, David encouraged all the godly to seek Him. It has been said **"Man's extremity is God's opportunity."** In the hour of pain, sorrow, poverty, betrayal, misunderstanding, and temptation, God is near to supply all the needs of those who put their trust in Him.

As our way is committed to Him, God responds with assurance, ***"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye"*** ([verse 8](#)). This is the promise from God. He does not tell us to watch church members and act as they do. He does not ask us to decide for ourselves what we should teach, doing what seems reasonable. He wants us to use reason in finding out what His Word has to say and then do accordingly. It is God's work to teach the right way. It is our work to walk in it.

How does God guide us? The underlying principle is that the mind of God shines through that which He has given. He has given us the Bible, Christ's life, and the Holy Spirit. Pray and study. Exercise faith to receive and follow the truth of God's Word. It is through these that we can know God's will. He never leads us contrary to His revealed Word. Let us be good representatives of His truth. Sometimes the way may be rough and rocky but we must be loyal citizens of God's kingdom in all circumstances. Constant watchfulness for indication of His will is needed if we are to know His direction and the joy of obedience.