

Remnant Life Church
April 26, 2015
Heartfelt
Psalm 32/Psalm 51

- A cornerstone of the Christian faith is forgiveness
- We are promised forgiveness if we confess our sins (**I John 1:9**)
- Why do we not hold to our forgiveness?

1. The 32nd Psalm is David dealing with the consequences associated with his sin

- a. Two foundational truths are written in the first 2 verses –
 - i. Forgiveness (**v 1**)
 - ii. Removal of Sin (**v 2**)
- b. Within forgiveness is the Doctrine of Imputation
 - i. The act of one person adding something to another person's account
 - ii. A statistical term most often – replacing missing data with substituted values
 - iii. There are 3 primary examples of this in the Bible
 1. Adam's sin nature upon mankind (**Rom. 3:23; 5:12**)
 2. Man's sin put upon Jesus on the cross (**Isa. 53:5; I Peter 2:24**)
 3. The righteousness of Jesus Christ put upon the believing sinner (**Phi. 3:9; James 2:23**)
- c. David writes of the consequence of un-confessed sin
 - i. (**v 3 - 4**) Sin brings a negative emotional and physiological impact ("...always before me...")
 1. Health
 2. Peace of mind
 3. Happiness
 4. Favor with God
 - ii. Sin weighs on us in total effect through God's hand
- d. Throughout his writings David describes the totality of God's forgiveness
 - i. He forgives the sin; pardons it
 - ii. He covers the sin; puts it out of sight
 - iii. The sin is not counted against us; the act is canceled from the record
- e. (**v 11**) His joy is our reward for the confession of sin and God's forgiveness
 - i. Joy is what we have inside - internal
 - ii. Happiness is from our circumstances - external

READ – Psalm 51

2. David agonizes in the 51st before God after he is confronted by Nathan

- a. David begins by doing what God expects each of us to do – fully acknowledge the sin (**v 1-2**)
- b. He does not blame his sin on anyone or anything else (**v 4**)
 - i. David's heavy heart brings the focus of his sin against God alone

- ii. In reality, David's sin was also against Bathsheba, Uriah and against all the people of Israel
 - c. (v 7) David pleads with God to cleanse him with hyssop (a plant from the mint family with small green leaves and blue, pink or white flowers)
 - i. David refers to the rite performed in the time of Moses
 - ii. Hyssop were used to place the blood on the door posts and lintel at the time of Passover (Ex. 12:21-23)
 - iii. When a person was ceremonially unclean (skin disease, contact with a dead body, etc...) after a period of time they were then sprinkled with water or blood using a bunch of hyssop
 - iv. This was known as the "blood of purification"
 - v. The writer of Hebrews calls Christ's blood the "blood of sprinkling" (12:24)
 - vi. The final sacrifice and sheading of blood for our sins was through the death of Jesus on the cross
 - John 19:29 - *A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.*
 - d. David asks God not only to forgive him but remake him (v 10)
 - i. Clean heart – the initiation of the action
 - ii. Steadfast spirit – fixed on God
 - e. David asks that God not remove the Holy Spirit from him (v 11)
 - i. As repentant Christians we do not need to fear this
 - ii. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would be with us forever (John 14:16)
 - f. The depth of David's confession is found in verses 16 and 17
 - i. There was no sacrifice available to atone for the sin of adultery
 - ii. The penalty was death by stoning (Lev. 20:10)
 - iii. David throws himself completely on the mercy of God
 - iv. God answers David's prayer and forgives him (v 12)
 - v. David suffers the consequences however, for the rest of his life
 - vi. Just as David's sins were not against God alone, the consequences impacted not only his life but his entire family and all of the nation of Israel
- Know that when you confess your sins to God in honest repentance you are forgiven
 - Nothing can bring that sin back to you again
 - Worry is often the effort of Satan to try and bring a forgiven sin back into your life
 - On the slope of Longs Peak in Colorado lie the ruins of a huge tree. Naturalists say that it stood for over 400 years. It had weathered thousands of storms and had been hit with lightning 14 times. At the end, an army of beetles attacked the tree and leveled it to the ground. This tremendous giant, that age had not withered, that lightning had not blasted, that storms had not subdued fell at last before beetles so small that you could crush them between his forefinger and thumb. Many people survive rare storms and lightning blasts somehow but

allow the beetles of worry, fear, stress, guilt and tension to destroy their joy, their happiness and effectiveness. Of the 773,692 words in the Bible, the word worry is not used once. Worry is not in God's vocabulary.

- What do you need to confess to God this morning?
 - An action?
 - An attitude?
 - An emotion?