

The Place of Blessing
Psalm 32

I. The Conventional Wisdom on Being Blessed by God (v.10-11)

The righteous – the upright in heart – are _____, and the wicked are _____.

II. The Shocking Truth About Being Blessed by God (v.1-2)

*God's blessing is available to _____, _____,
and those guilty of _____.*

III. The Only Pathway to Being Blessed by God (v.3-7)

*The problem David experienced (v.3-4) was not merely his _____. It was
what he did about it. He tried to hide it.*

IV. Conventional Wisdom Rightly Understood Brings Lasting Blessing (v.8-11)

Conclusion

1. Be sure that we have made pleasing God the true priority of our life.
2. Humbly and honestly assess ourselves everyday before God.
3. Remain vitally connected to Jesus by being in His word and abiding in Him throughout each day.

Day by Day in the Word

Monday / Tuesday

There is little doubt that David's sin with Bathsheba and his subsequent confrontation with Nathan the prophet (cf. II Samuel 11-12) provide the background to this psalm. Read Psalm 32 slowly and contemplatively, and note the following thought units. First, David expresses the blessedness of forgiveness and cleansing (1-2), and contrasts it with the burden of unconfessed sin (3-4) which weighed him down until he confessed it (5). True fellowship with God always brings peace and joy (6-7). The Spirit then speaks and urges all to heed His instruction and counsel (8-9). David then encourages complete trust in the Lord (10-11). Verses 1-2 are quoted in Romans 4:7-8, and verse 5 is echoed in I John 1:9. Unconfessed sin is a heavy burden to bear. Are *you* laboring under a load of sin? Confess it to the Lord, agree with Him that it is wrong, and commit to turn from it immediately. You will experience a new freedom and joy.

Wednesday / Thursday

Psalm 51 is closely related to Psalm 32. The title relates it to II Samuel 12, when Nathan the prophet confronted David over his sin with Bathsheba. As you read the psalm meditatively, observe the following units of thought. David confesses his sin and asks for mercy (1-4). He admits also to his sin nature (5) and asks to be cleansed anew (6-9). Then he asks for full restoration and renewal (10-13), and for deliverance from committing future sins (14-17). The psalm concludes with a prayer for Zion (18-19). God makes a clear distinction between those who do not love Him and true believers who slip into sin. This psalm expresses God's remedy for His fallen children (cf. I John 1:9, Proverbs 28:13). If you have long-standing issues with significant failures in your past, try praying this psalm to God with your particular failure in view. Pay special attention to the restoration sought in v.10-13. Could you possibly take a significant step forward today in finding healing?

Friday / Saturday

Most scholars identify seven psalms as what they call penitential psalms: 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143. We have already examined psalms 32 and 51. Today our focus will be on psalm 130. This psalm is also among the so-called "Songs of Ascent" (Psalms 120-134). Most likely these were sung by the pilgrims who journeyed to Jerusalem for the three great annual feasts. This one opens with an appeal to God for help on the sole basis of His forgiving grace (1-4). Let these first four verses be your genuine prayer as you begin to read. Verses 5-8 acknowledge that our hope is in God's word and in His promise of restoration. Let verse 7 be your prayer of thanksgiving. Are there other things for which you might thank God today?