

PSALM 32 – PART 1

Psalm 32:1-2 ... “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sine is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.”

We begin a multi-part series on the thirty-second Psalm, which was written by King David. The prophet Nathan had counseled David about his sin of adultery with Bathsheba. The king repented of that sin and wrote this psalm as a public confession. This is an important psalm because it is a first-person account of how sin pushes us away from God, and how confession and repentance are necessary to restore our relationship with him.

David begins by testifying that we are blessed when our sins are forgiven by God. We must be careful not to assume that God forgives us. It may be tempting to apologize to God for your sin – “Sorry God” – and then assume he has forgiven you. However, forgiveness must be requested and it will not be offered you if you also are not honest with God and confess your sin. Plus, you must then repent of your sin, which means that, with God’s help, you intend to never commit that sin again. David understood the chain of events needed to secure God’s forgiveness, which allowed him to then testify that he was blessed to be forgiven.

In the second part of verse 1, David writes: “whose sin is covered.” It is a popular notion that when God forgives us, that he also forgets our sins. We would have a pretty small and weak God if we believe he is forgetful. We have trouble trusting people who are forgetful, so how could we trust a forgetful god? There is even a passage in scripture that suggests God may forget your sin: “...And I will not remember your sins.” However, the meaning of this passage is that God CHOOSES to not remember your sin. God is omniscient. He knows everything. He is not forgetful in the way that you and I forget things, like where we left our shoes. But he can choose to forget your sin when he forgives you. We are encouraged to do the same thing toward people who do us wrong. However, lacking the superior morality and love that God possesses, we often find it hard to forget other peoples’ sins. When this verse states that our sin is covered, it means that the physical record of our sin is blotted out of God’s book so that on the day of judgment, God will not recite that sin to us and judge us for it.

The first part of verse 2 reads: “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity...” This statement is David testifying that the Lord’s did indeed forgive him, and David tells us that our sins can also be removed from God’s record and ignored at judgment day. “No iniquity” means that that we are no longer guilty of the sin God has forgiven. We are pardoned and set free. However, the second part of this verse, which reads: “...And in whose spirit there is no deceit,” is a condition. You cannot receive God’s forgiveness and have your sins blotted out of the official record, if your confession and repentance is not genuine and sincere. Saying empty words will not get you your pardon. And, God knows if you are sincere or not. You cannot hide your heart and mind from God.

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