

## PSALM 32 – PART 2

Psalm 32:3-5 ... “When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.”

In our previous study of this psalm, we found in verse 2 that we are blessed when God does not consider us guilty, which is the definition of iniquity. In today’s passage, David tells us of his misery in those days before he confessed his sin to God. Remember, this particular sin was his adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband. His attempt to hide his sin from God drained his strength and caused him to suffer physically because of his unconfessed sin. Have you ever experienced that? You sinned and tried to forget about it, but it made you physically ill? When we confess our sins, God restores us.

David goes on to say, “I acknowledged my sin to you and my iniquity I have not hidden.” It accomplishes nothing if you try to confess something less than your full sin. If you cheat on an exam in school, you cannot be free of that guilt by saying, “I accidentally saw my classmate’s paper.” If you take something from your employer, you cannot be excused by saying, “I forgot it was in my pocket.” To have your guilt removed, you must confess everything and ask forgiveness. You cannot expect God to forgive you if you lie to him or withhold information. If your spouse finds text messages on your phone from another lover, you cannot expect to be pardoned by saying “I did not initiate that relationship.” Nothing but the truth – the full truth – will set you free. Hiding the truth will keep you in bondage, both to God and the people you sin against.

The good news is how David closes today’s passage. He writes this for our benefit so we can learn from his mistakes and also learn how to be blessed. The last part of verse 5 reads: “I said...” This is David telling us that no one made him confess and repent, but that the Lord’s heavy hand upon him was sufficient to remind him of his guilt until he willingly confessed his sin. You have felt the Lord’s heavy hand on you when you did something wrong. It is that sullen, depressed, sickening feeling you feel when you sin, before you confess it to God. It feels like a weight on your head and shoulders that makes you feel bent over and ill. David closes with “...you forgave the iniquity of my sin.” This is the promise to us that when we sincerely confess our sins, God will forgive us. He removes the guilt of our mistakes and blots them out of his record book. He will never mention those sins to us at judgment day. We are truly forgiven.

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