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The Blessings of Forgiveness; Psalm 32
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Introduction – Psalm 32 rejoices in the forgiveness of the Lord. That in and of itself says something about our nature as humans, created by God, in His image and for His glory. We are a mysterious, divinely created being composed of body and soul, which makes us entirely different than any other form of creation. We are more than matter. God breathed life into man and he became a living soul.

Second, it says something about the weight of unconfessed sin. Before we become believers in Jesus Christ, sin alienates us from God, leaves us in a spiritually dead state. After conversion, when we tolerate or embrace sin, it breaks our fellowship with God. In either case, sin weighs heavy on our souls.

Third, it says something about what we were created for, namely, the glory of God. Sin disrupts our created purpose of knowing God and enjoying Him forever. It rips the true, lasting, real joy right out of our existence, and nothing in this world or in this life will satisfy the ache of our soul to be reunited and reconciled with our Creator, Father, and Savior other than being forgiven.

You know when something is not right with our bodies, we feel it. If something is wrong emotionally or relationally, we feel it. The same is true for our souls, when something is wrong, namely, sin, we feel it. Forgiveness, God's forgiveness, resets the broken soul like a physician resets a broken bone. It heals the wounded soul like reconciliation heals the broken heart. The soul made right with God dwells in a blessed state of joy and life.

- I. Forgiveness is the Greatest of Blessings (vv1-2)
 - a. In these first two verses, David describes sin with 3 words, transgression, sin, and iniquity.
 - i. A transgression is a breaking of the law of God, to cross over a boundary that God has set, to trespass into forbidden territory. God's law reveals God's ways and provides us instruction for every facet of life. It teaches us how to properly view and practice worship, marriage, sexuality, justice, relationships, everything! God has set this parameter around us, which is His law, and it is good for us.

Living in His designated territory is where we find true joy, peace, salvation, and life. But right over the fence, sin, Satan, this world, our flesh always paints a bright and colorful picturesque landscape, as if God, by His law was actually withholding something good from us. We transgress when we believe the lie and deception of sin that the grass really is greener on the other side of God's fence. Transgression basically says, "God, you're not good enough."

- ii. Sin is a falling short of the glory of God, meaning, instead of glorifying God as we were created to do, we rather glorify ourselves or someone other than God. We misplace our worship of God to worship lesser things. When we sin by putting ourselves or others in the place of God as our soul's satisfaction, we are saying to God that He is not God.
- iii. Iniquity speaks to the vileness, corruption, perversion, wickedness, and evil of sin. Anything that is not of God or for God is a horrible distortion of the holiness, beauty, and goodness of God. It is perversion; it is iniquity.
- b. The bottom line is this: We have all transgressed, sinned, and given ourselves to iniquity, we are not right with God, our souls languish engulfed in sin, and we have no adequate remedy for sin.
- c. The good news is this: God has made a way for our sin to be removed from us through faith in His Son, and the forgiven soul is a blessed soul.
- d. Transgressions can be forgiven (v1). Sins can be covered (v1). God has arranged it so that our iniquities will not be counted against us (v2). And when that happens, when forgiveness happens, and our sin is dealt with and removed, our spirit has no deceit. Our spirit is now what it is meant to be. On the outside and on the inside, we then can be all God intends for us to be, fully alive!
- e. My friends, there simply is no greater blessing than to know the forgiveness of God in having our sin forgiven, covered, and removed!

II. Forgiveness Comes Through Confession (vv3-5)

- a. In vv3-5 David shares with us how we too can know and enjoy the forgiveness of God. We all know something is wrong with us and with the world. Something is not right. The Bible tells us what that is – sin. But it doesn't stop there, thanks be to God. The Bible does

not just correctly identify and diagnose the problem, but it goes on to tell us the remedy, the correction to our greatest problem.

- b. V3 speaks of the anguish and agony of holding on to sin. Sin weighs upon us, affects every area of our lives. In every way, sin is ridiculous and insane. To choose death instead of life, cursing instead of blessings, condemnation instead of salvation. And when we are under it or clinging to it, it will take its toll.
- c. V4 Describes the conviction of God. As ridiculous and insane as our sin is, the only thing that will drive us away from sin and to life in God is the hand of God. He presses before He blesses. He presses to awaken us, to cause us to hunger for more, to drive us to despair of sin, and to cause us to rightly yearn for Him.
- d. So in v5, David gladly, willingly, openly confesses his sin to God
- e. And then something so marvelous and wonderful happens – and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- f. Life awaits on the other side of forgiveness! Sin distorts our view of God so that the grass does seem greener on the other side. But once we're there and the fleeting pleasure of sin wears off, we find the grass of sin to be empty, void of nourishment for the soul, instead of vitamin-rich graces for our faith, we grow sick from the poison of sin. And yet, with confession, God places us right back in His lush, evergreen pasture.
- g. I don't know what David's transgression was here. I don't know what his sin or iniquity was here, but one thing we do know, being forgiven of it meant much more to David than keeping it!
- h. If we desire to know the blessing of forgiveness, we must follow David and confess our sin to the Lord – and we must do so, today!

III. Seeking Forgiveness Should Not be Delayed (vv6-7)

- a. There is an urgency. There is a time when God may be found, and therefore, a time when He may not be found. In our sin-skewed view of God, we read about forgiveness and think of God as sitting in heaven just waiting and hoping for us to call on Him and at any given time we please, we then can come to God. That is not how the Bible portrays sin and forgiveness.
- b. (1) Death can shut you off from forgiveness. (2) God's grace must be at work in your life to desire forgiveness. (3) Sin blinds so that you think you need no forgiveness or have all the time in the world for it.

- c. The Bible is clear, sin will destroy you, Jesus will save you. Cry out for forgiveness today, do not delay!
- d. If you confess your sin today, the tsunami of sin's power will not overtake you, God will be your hiding place, God will preserve you from the penalty of your own sin.
- e. But we must seek forgiveness while the Lord may be found, for without it, sin's power and penalty will certainly overtake us, for without forgiveness, we are exposed to the ruin of our own sin, left to our own, without the provision and protection of the Lord.
- f. Forgiveness is not to be taken lightly or delayed, but urgently sought. Just because it's available today does not give us the right to presume upon God that it will be available tomorrow.

IV. The Lord Instructs the Forgiven (vv8-9)

- a. Here in these verses we see the role of repentance in forgiveness. In confession, we agree with God about our sin. In repentance, we turn from our sin by following the Lord.
- b. God will teach us through His Word, His Spirit, and His church, the way we should go. We were going our own way, the way of sin, God instructs us in His way. Repentance is a change of heart that leads to a change of direction. We confess sin in our marriage, in our sexuality, in our attitude, and God sets us on a new path.
- c. But notice how God deals with us – v8b – with my eye upon you. God's ways are always the best ways for us. His instruction to us is formed by His care for us. God is not a dictator; He is a Father. God has your best interest in mind in the way He directs us to go.
- d. Therefore, v9, do not stubbornly refuse the instruction of God; it is to our own undoing to do so.

V. The Joy of a Clean Heart (vv10-11)

- a. The upright in heart are the ones whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered, and whose iniquity is not counted against them. When God removes our sin, He replaces it with joy!
- b. Sin leads to sorrow. Repentance, confession leads to joy.
- c. Here's the clincher, v10b – you've got to believe that! We've got to trust in the Lord, that His ways yield joy, while sin yields sorrow! We must Trust Him. We must Confess. We must Repent. We must Follow His ways and then we will be glad!

