

Psalm 51:8
MAKE ME TO HEAR JOY

- I. The loss of joy.
 - A. One of the serious consequences of sin is a loss of joy and the experience of misery.
 - B. It is most serious to be without joy, without God's shining face on us.
 - 1. To be joyless is a grievous burden, and is often the reason for self-injury, self-hurt, and even suicide.
 - 2. David describes his miserable condition (loss of joy) as his bones being crushed - not just broken (Ps. 32:3).
 - C. All sin affects our body's vigor by taking away our joy and giving us misery.
 - 1. When we are robbed of spiritual joy, then our physical life suffers and is adversely affected.
 - 2. Prov. 17:22 describes a broken spirit dries up the bones and a merry heart doeth good like medicine.
- II. David goes to God with this request for joy.
 - A. God lets His children experience some of the fruit of their sin so that they will fly back to Him. His hand is heavy on him.
 - 1. Joylessness is God's judgment on the sinner.
 - 2. This joylessness and misery is guilt!!
 - B. It is God's will that the believer not remain in misery.
 - C. David is seeking the joy of salvation from sin's guilt.
 - 1. It was God who crushed him, so the return of joy is and must come from God.
 - 2. This joy, which animates one's soul, is forgiveness and deliverance from the guilt of sin.
- III. Joy is obtained by our "hear"ing. We "hear" joy.
 - A. Joy is not found in wine, drugs, riches, fame, success.
 - B. It is obtained in hearing of divine pardon and the assurance of God's love and favor.
 - C. The Lord's Supper is one of God's words, confirming the removal of all of our sins in the crucified Jesus.