

Studying the Psalms

Psalms Of Repentance

Psalms 32

June 25, 2023

Psalms 32 – Psalms of Repentance

Psalms 32:1-2, *“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!”*

- “Blessed” describes a blissful state, one with hope and joy.
- Four of God’s blessings are described here:
  - Transgression is forgiven
  - Sin is covered
  - Iniquity not imputed
  - In his spirit is no deceit found

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Psalms 32:1, *“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!”*

- How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven.
  - Every deed that is contrary to God’s law is sin (1 John 3:4; cf. James 2:10-11; Romans 4:15)
  - Every such deed brings a curse (Galatians 3:10; cf. Deuteronomy 27:26; 11:28; Jeremiah 11:3)
- By contrast, blessed is the person who avoids sin (Psalms 1:1), “who practices righteousness at all times” (106:3; 119:2; 128:1)
- Who can claim to have avoided sin in every respect? No one.
  - “Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.” (Ecclesiastes 7:20; cf. 1 Kings 8:46; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10).

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Psalms 32:1, *“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!”*

- God, being rich in mercy, has provided us with a means of having our sins forgiven, so that every one of us can be blessed like someone who has not sinned. (Galatians 3:8-14; Ephesians 2:4-7)
- To “cover” sin is also to have it “blotted out” (Nehemiah 4:5; Psalms 51:1, 9)
- To “cover” sin is to have it concealed or hidden. In effect, sin is erased, wiped away, forgotten. The sin is not still present, rather, it is completely forgiven and removed. (Hebrews 10:17 - quoting Jeremiah 31:34)

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Psalms 32:2, *“How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!”*

- Iniquity is not imputed to him – the word imputed means, among other things, “to be charged with.”
  - As David uses this expression, he speaks of being charged with our sins. The only way we will NOT be charged with our sins is to be forgiven. Contrasted with reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)
  - When sin is forgiven and covered (verse 1), the Lord no longer imputes it – that is, He no longer “counts” it (ESV). He does so, not because sinners deserve it, but solely for His own sake (Isaiah 43:25; Titus 3:5)
  - It is a gift from Himself (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8)