

Psalm 32 - Mourning Over Our Sin

November 21, 2019

Psalm 32:1-5 ESV A Maskil of David.

1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

Proverbs 28:13 ESV

13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

1 John 1:7-10 ESV

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Psalm 32:1-5 ESV A Maskil of David.

3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

Psalm 38:3-8 ESV

3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.

5 My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness,

6 I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning.

7 For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh.

8 I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

Matthew 5:3-4 ESV

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

poor (ptōchos - from "ptoosso to crouch or cringe - reduced to begging, destitute of wealth, influence, position and honor, helpless, powerless, destitute of Christian virtues)

4 Blessed are those who mourn (*pentheō* - lament, wail, grieve), for they shall be comforted.

"Conviction is given to us as a gift of shame and repentance; it is the great mercy of God."

—Oswald Chambers, *It is Finished, My Upmost for His Highest*

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 ESV

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

James 4:8-10 ESV

8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

"A spiritual experience which is thoroughly flavoured with a deep and bitter sense of sin is of great value to him that hath it. It is terrible in the drinking, but it is most wholesome in the bowels, and in the whole of the after life."

—Charles Spurgeon, *Spurgeon: A Biography*, Arnold A. Dallimore, p.14

Why don't (American) Christians experience this depth of repentance today?

1. **Failure to connect the suffering of the Cross to our sin** (*and being unable to relate to such suffering*).

1 Peter 2:24 ESV

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Isaiah 53:5-6 ESV

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

"Jesus Christ hates the sin in people, and Calvary is the measure of His hatred."

—Oswald Chambers, *It is Finished, My Upmost for His Highest*

2. **Repenting for what we do instead of who we are.** (*Judging ourselves by outward performance and neglecting our heart condition.*)

“Much of our problem in continuing fellowship with a holy God is that many Christians repent only for what they do, rather than for what they are.” —A.W. Tozer, “Whatever Happened to Worship?”

- *When we view sin only as an action or deed, there can be a disassociation with that deed, such as, “I did something wrong but I’m still a good person.” This leaves a lingering stronghold of self-righteousness, self-reliance and self-deception.*
- *When we understand that the external action originates internally in the heart and mind, then we realize that that sin is within my flesh, and without Jesus’ Lordship I am capable and prone to that and worse. This realization creates a desperate dependency on Christ living in me hour by hour, day by day. “Blessed are the poor in spirit...”*

1 Samuel 16:7 ESV

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

Luke 18:10-14 ESV

10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’

13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

“Beware of no man more than yourself; we carry our worst enemies within us.”

—Charles H. Spurgeon

“I am more afraid of my own heart than of the pope and all his cardinals. I have within me the great pope, Self.”

—Martin Luther

Psalms 51:3, 5 ESV

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

“Too many think lightly of sin, and therefore think lightly of the Savior. He who has stood before his God, convicted and condemned, with the rope about his neck, is the man to weep for joy when he is pardoned, to hate the evil which has been forgiven him, and to live in the honor of the Redeemer by whose blood he has been cleansed.”

—Charles Spurgeon, Spurgeon: A Biography, Arnold A. Dallimore, p.14

3. **We have worldly sorrow instead of godly sorrow** (*sorry for the consequences more than the offense to God's heart*).

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 ESV

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

"Many think they repent when it is not the offense but the penalty that troubles them."

—Thomas Watson, (c. 1620 – 1686) Puritan preacher, author

2 Samuel 12:13 ESV

13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die."

Psalm 51:4 ESV

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.