



Encountering God
THROUGH PRAYER

September 29th. through October 4th. 2019

Psalm 32:1

1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!

The Truth About Sin

- One of the pillars of modern civilization is moral relativity. One of the allures of moral relativity is how it seems to do away with guilt.
 - This is why people get so uncomfortable when the Bible starts talking about sin. But the Bible demands that we accept and confront our sins.
- This psalm starts with a detailed examination of sin.
 - Transgression (*pesa*) means rebellious self assertion. It describes the heart that desires something simply because it's forbidden. *"No one is going to tell me not to _____"*
 - Sin (*hatta*) means to go off the clearly marked path and thereby miss the intended destination (miss the mark). Sin violates God's design and results in the breakdown of sobriety and order.
- Even in a world of moral relativity we know there's something wrong with us which is why we seek to be "covered".
 - One of our greatest fears is to be uncovered / revealed. Example: The Truman Show.
 - We know we can't live up to even our own standards. What if someone recorded you every time you said... "you ought to" or "I would never"?

Psalm 32:2-5, 9

2 How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit! 3 When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin... 9 Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you.

How Sin Should Be Treated

- David acknowledged his sin to God = We have to have a clear view of Who we've offended.
 - Some of us feel guilty for things we shouldn't. Some of us don't feel guilty for things we should. What's the remedy for this problem?
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 4:3... It wasn't about public opinion. It wasn't about his opinion of himself. It only matters what God thinks (*The freedom of self-forgetfulness*).
 - ▶ What this means is our conscience has to be programmed by God.
- David took full responsibility for his sins... "*my iniquity I did not hide*".
 - This means we can't blame shift. No extenuating circumstances. We are the reason we sin, period.
 - If God will judge us for our sins and we're not responsible for our sins, God is unjust.
- David understood the difference between true confession and self pity / flagellation.
 - vs. 9 tells us not be like the horse or mule that has to be controlled by bit and bridle.
 - vs. 5 tells us that God forgives the sinfulness / awfulness of our sins.

Psalm 32:6-8, 10-11

6 Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him. 7 You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you... 10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked, But he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall surround him. 11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

The Path We Must Travel

- vs. 6... God is most apparent to us when we're being honest about our sins. Hard heart = An invisible God.
- vs. 7... Confessing our sins to God brings us what we sought to obtain through sin.
 - He covers us... He preserves us... He comforts us through deliverance.
 - The way we get covered is through His uncovering on the cross.
- vs. 8... Confessing our sins to God prepares us to learn a new way, obtaining a new heart.