

THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS

(Most Asked Question #2)

Psalm 51

There are many wonderful benefits enjoyed by true believers in Jesus Christ. Some of these include: understanding who we are and the purpose of life, having a home in heaven, and having a family filled with real brothers and sisters. Another wonderful benefit is having all of our sins forgiven...resulting in a clean heart!!!!

David was a great man of God, who fell into two great sins. David continued unrepentant for a year when God had His prophet confront him. (2 Samuel 12) It is then that he prays for forgiveness.

Psalm 51, the greatest of the 7 confessional psalms, tells of this. It is instructive for us as we too yearn to be released from the penalty of our sins.

TWO NECESSITIES ENABLING US TO BE FREE FROM ALL OUR SINS

...for forgiveness is our great need, for without it our sin will condemn us before holy God.

I. We Must Confess Our Sins To The Lord To Find Pardon And Cleansing. (vv1-9)

- A. David approaches God with a cry for forgiveness. (vv1-2)
 1. He utters a fierce, even desperate, clinging to God's mercy. (v.1)
Mercy is the way that sinners can approach God. Not by His justice, power, etc.
Where do we learn that God is merciful? God tells us... (Exodus 33:12-23)
"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy..." Sinners need to know this!
 2. He now has a profound awareness of his sin.
"Transgression" this refers to crossing a known boundary of God's moral law.
"Iniquity" this refers to the perversion, or the depravity of our natures.
"sin"...this refers to falling short of God's high mark of perfection.
(These words all appear later and David takes responsibility..."my" (vv3,4,5,9)
- B. David confesses his sin to the Lord by making several statements about it. (vv 3-6)
 1. We too, as David, must be aware of our sin. (v.3) Most of our problems begin here.
We do not confess our sins because we do not recognize that what we do is sin.
David was very much aware of his sin (vv3-4) show the problems he had prior to...
 2. We too, as David, must realize that our sin is ultimately against the Lord. (v.4)
We may "wrong" others, we may "offend" others, but sin is only against God.
In 2 Samuel 12:13, David came to this point, "I have sinned against the Lord."
 3. We too must recognize that our sin springs from our evil nature within, (v.5)
He is not blaming his mother here, he is saying that there was never a moment when he was not a sinner. Yet, he knows that God desire purity of heart. (v.6)
- C. David's appeal for cleansing is based solely on the need for the blood of the innocent. (vv7-9)
 1. He prays: "cleanse me with hyssop."
 - a. The word "cleanse" means to purge. Literally it means: "de-sin me."
 - b. "Wash me" that no stain remains. (Isaiah 1:18) "though your sins...scarlet..."
 - c. "blot out" is the removing of an indictment from a page. (like papyrus)
 2. Hyssop was a small plant used like a brush to sprinkle the blood. (Ex. 12:22)
 - a. David is asking for cleansing by the blood. He is saying, forgive me and consider me as cleansed on the basis of the innocent victim that has died.
 - b. This is how we come to God too. "We need forgiveness badly." But Hebrews tells, "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin." (9:22)

It is only on the shed blood of Jesus, that we may find God's mercy.

II. We Too Must Have A Renewed Heart So That We Will Not Continue In Sin, But Rather Walk In Purity. (vv10-19)

- A. David realized that forgiveness was not enough, he needed a new heart so that he might not repeat his sin. (v.10) "create" is the word "bara." This refers to only what God can do. This would provide him with a "steadfast spirit within." (Ezek 36:25-27)
- B. Finally, David prays for a restoration of joy. He had lost it. He does not pray to be re-saved... but, that he might experience the joy and blessing of having a clean heart again. (v.12)

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:
