NO Condemnation!

Psalm 32:1-5

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

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

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

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

"Grace is a decision before it's an emotion."

SHAME says...

. Dis- graced!

... the wicked brings shame and disgrace. Proverbs 13:5

'Disgrace' – out of favor; dishonor; to sink in estimation; loss of reputation. (lit) "to cause a stink"
Bible Knowledge Commentary

. Worthless!

All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face. Ps. 44:15

. Humiliated

Jesus... endured the cross, despising the shame.

Heb. 12:2

The "Shame" of the Cross

- . Despised
- . Publically attacked
 - -physically
 - -verbally
 - -emotionally
- . Open humiliation nowhere to hide. He (Jesus) disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him. Col. 2:15
- . In-debt!
- ... by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands... Col. 2:14

God's grace says...

. God is patient and ready to forgive.

For You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You. Ps. 86:5

What happens to "confessed" sin?

- . It is put "as far as the east is from the west. Ps. 103:12
- . It has been put "behind His back." Isa. 38:17
- . It has been put "into the depths of the sea."

Micah 7:19

. He will not "remember your sins." Isa 43:25

But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. (15)

. God is able to make all things new.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed

away.

2 Cor. 5:17

. New in quality -

Love for the Lord vs self.

. New in foundation -

He is your rock vs. sinful choices

- . New in purpose/direction
- . New in power.

Japanese word -

"Kintsukuroi" – golden repair. The art of restoring broken pottery with gold so the fractures are literally illuminated.

- a celebration of the imperfection as an integral part of the story.
- . God is ready to set you free.

For freedom Christ has set us free...

Gal. 5:1

God wants you to walk in freedom.

Freedom from -

- . Regret
- . Guilt
- . Self-condemnation
- . worthlessness

Shame says – "You must pay!" (Earn my forgiveness)

- never feel you have done enough.

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

"He breaks the power of canceled sin - He sets the prisoner free!"

. God will lead you in His wisdom.

But one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead.

Phil. 3:13

If anyone of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God who gives generously to all without reproach and it will be given him. James 1:5

1. Show the fruit of repentance.

Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Matt. 3:8

... that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance. Acts 26:30

"We discover and experience release from our guilt in direct proportion to our willingness to face our sin, confess our sinfulness and accept God's forgiveness."

(Freedom of Forgiveness –David Augsberger)

"Repentance is owning responsibility. It is not a matter of punishing ourselves for past mistakes, hating ourselves for past failures and depressing ourselves with feelings of worthlessness."

2. Take the steps that will bring healing.

... the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Heb. 12:1

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees. (12)

Don't give up! Never, ever give up!

"Move" – Toby Mac

I know your heart been broke again I know your prayers ain't been answered yet I know you're feeling like you got nothing left Well, lift your head, it ain't over yet, ain't over yet so Move, keep walkin' soldier keep movin' on Move, keep walkin' until the morning' comes Move, keep walkin' soldier keep movin' on And lift your head, it ain't over yet, ain't over yet Hold on, hold on Lord ain't finished yet Hold on, hold on He'll get you through this Hold on, hold on These are the promises I never will forget I never will forget

3. Be alert to the root of bitterness

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God. Heb. 12:15

... that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble and by it many become defiled.

"Bitter?"

- . Sharp or biting to the taste
- . Cruel; severe; sarcastic; (a "bitter" enemy)
- . Painful ("bitter" cold)
- . Sad, depressing (the "bitter" end)
- . Fueled by anger; contrary to life; grudge; hatred

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Eph. 4:31

Bitterness?

- . Focus on the hurt or pain more than grace
- . Wanting revenge or pay back more than grace.
- . Allowing a cynical spirit to grow more than grace.

Bitter or Better?

God' grace does a good work – a sweet work of God.

4. Walk by faith, trusting in His promises, resting in His hope.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing... Rom. 15:1

What are you believing?

- . Jesus has paid the debt for sin.
- . Jesus' blood cleanses from all sin.
- . Jesus can heal the hurts.
- . Jesus gives hope.

... so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Rom. 15:13b