

I Acknowledge My Transgressions

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Psalm 51:1-7 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bath-sheba. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

- I. The first seven verses of this Psalm are focused on David's sin.
 - A. It is David himself who is focused on his sin.
 - B. This is the drastic turn-around that every sinner must make before there is any hope of finding mercy with God and others.
 - C. An unrepentant sinner defends his sin and himself and that is all his mind is set on.
 - D. In order to defend himself he must condemn others, so he attacks the righteous and tries with all he can muster to cast them in as low a light as himself.
 - E. He refuses to acknowledge his transgressions, and if he does it is only with the stipulation that he is no worse than other people, especially those who profess to be saved.

- II. The greatest step in salvation is getting to a place where you really see yourself as a defiled, polluted, sinful wretch, who deserves to go to hell.
 - A. It is the hardest step in salvation because the world is set up to defend you and your sin.
 - B. The world, in general, will never encourage you to repent of your sin and turn to Christ for forgiveness.
 - C. Because the world keeps going and life goes on, most sinners see no need to be concerned about their sin.
 - D. You got into sin by being deceived by it and convinced that it was right for you, and so it is hard to come to the realization in your soul that you have been a fool.
 - E. As long as your life is like a ship sailing on the sea you have no desire to change course, or change anything.
 - F. It is only when you realize that you have lost your bearings and have no idea where you are or where you are going and the ship is in danger of going down that you will consider reevaluating your opinions and beliefs and convictions.

- III. There is a great change in the soul of a person once he makes this discovery about himself.
 - A. As long as he is still hiding in darkness he will fight and resist, but as soon as his soul is brought into the light enough for him to see himself as he is before God, he will respond in a different way.
 - B. He will either despair, or he will begin to seek for God and his mercy.

- C. Without a clear understanding of what God has really done through Christ to atone for sin and to redeem lost sinners, a person who realizes their sinfulness will despair and sink deeper into darkness and hopelessness.
 - 1. When this happens he will take the attitude of, "I am doomed anyway, and I have ruined it all anyway, there is no use to try to fix it because it can't be fixed."
 - D. But when Christ and what He has done to atone for sin is brought before the mind of a person who has come under true conviction of sin, he has another option.
 - E. This is why the gospel is the good news.
 - F. But it is only good news for a sinner who realizes to the depth of his soul that he is a sinner and guilty before God.
 - G. So the design of the gospel is to bring men into condemnation BEFORE they are given the good news of the gospel. (The modern Gospel message is upside down)
 - H. This does not set well with self-righteous sinners.
 - 1. They resist it like a wild animal when it is cornered.
 - 2. Sometimes they kill the messenger of God who is shining the light onto their sin.
 - 3. Sinners prefer a gospel that comforts them in their sin by excusing them, or reminding them of God's love and mercy.
 - 4. But for a careless sinner to hear that God loves them as they are only encourages them to remain in their sin.
 - 5. If there is to be any hope for that lost soul SOMEONE must tell them the truth about them and their sin.
 - I. They MUST be brought to realize their sinfulness and wretchedness before God and others.
 - J. Nathan did it to David by getting David to condemn himself.
 - 1. When David condemned someone else to death for doing exactly what he had done he was forced to condemn himself, also.
 - 2. Maybe we should learn from Nathan's method of preaching.
 - K. Sinners oppose themselves and therefore contradict themselves very often and very easily.
 - L. It is very easy for a person who walks in the light to point out to a sinner his obvious contradictions and prejudice when it comes to judging others.
 - 1. He has no moral authority to judge others when he will not apply the same laws to himself.
- IV. When a person comes to the place David is here, he stops judging others and stops making excuses and stops trying to justify himself.
- A. By saying, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." He was giving up any claim of anything good in himself.
 - 1. He was acknowledging that he knew in his heart of hearts that something was terribly wrong with HIM, and that something IN him had to go.
 - 2. He was acknowledging that he needed help to correct what was wrong with him, and that he had no power to do it himself.

Psalm 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Psalm 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.