

*Psalm 32*

**WHAT KIND OF SINNER ARE YOU?**

**Forgiveness celebrated and illustrated (1-2a)**

This Psalm of David reminds us that God's forgiveness is almost scandalous to us humanly. God's forgiveness is big enough to forgive David who arranged someone's murder so he could have his wife.

*All who repent and believe the gospel have experienced the scandal of God's forgiving grace, for we have not just committed adultery or even murder, but we have committed treason and blasphemy against the king of kings and been forgiven.*

- Verses 1-2 illustrate forgiveness as 1) covering something up and 2) not imputing something. Our sins are not credited to our account; they are covered.
- Other OT illustrations of forgiveness are: How blessed is he whose sin has been taken away, cast behind God's back, wiped out, not remembered, washed clean, tread under foot, cast into the depths of the sea, removed as far as the east is from the west (II Samuel 12:13; Isaiah 38:17; Isaiah 43:25; Jer. 31:34; Isaiah 1:18; Micah 7:19; Psalm 103:12).
- Jesus insisted that only perfect people go to heaven. Yet because Jesus died to take the penalty for our sin, God offers forgiveness as a free gift to those who repent and believe.
- In Romans 4 Paul quotes Psalm 32 and explains that none of us deserves forgiveness. It has to be a gift we receive from God not something we earn.

*Instead of trying to prove your own goodness, accept God's gift of forgiveness.*

**What kind of sinner are you? (2b, 3a, 5a)**

Verse 2 sounds like it says that sinless people are blessed - people who have no deceit in them. But verse 3 clarifies—that means the one who does not keep silent about his sin.

**The blessing is for those who are honest and humble and open about their sin, instead of being deceitful or silent.**

For a long time, David was living in deceit, in hiding, in silence (v. 5). Then finally he reached a point where he stopped hiding his sin from God: stopped being silent about his sin before God.

Of course we can't actually hide our sin from God, but since Adam and Eve, we have been trying:

- maybe we deny that we sinned;
- or pretend repentance “Oh yes, I'm terrible;”
- or rationalize why it wasn't really that bad;
- or doubt whether God will forgive;
- or we are embarrassed that we've sinned again;
- or maybe we just ignore our sin, and carry on as if everything is OK.

So remember the question is: “What kind of a sinner are you?” We are all sinners, but what kind of a sinner are you? Am I deceitful, denying, silent, hiding, ignoring? Or am I humble, open, repentant honest.

There are various ways this Psalm appeals to us to come out of hiding: to be humble, open, repentant, honest sinners.



**An appeal to deceitful sinners:**

**1. The heavy hand of God (3b-4)**

God disciplines His children when they live in hiding or deceit (like David). In love He places a “heavy hand” upon them (not overbearing . . .). Sometimes God has to press hard before we will turn from our foolishness. The sooner we respond the better (v.5).

**2. The need for confession (v.5)**

The Psalmist is determining “I need to do this.” That's the same thing we see with the prodigal son, when the Lord's heavy hand was upon Him (Luke 15:18).

We can talk ourselves out of confession, or talk ourselves into confession. The Old Testament gives many examples of true confession (Ps. 51:4; Psalm 41:4; Psalm 106:6; Ps. 119:176; Lam. 1:20)

The heavy hand of God's discipline calls us to come pray to God while He may be found (v. 6).

**3. The opportunity for confession (6a).**

Unsaved people often say “Maybe later. I'll think about Jesus later. I'll read the Bible later. Not right now. Life is too fun.” They put off humility and repentance (Prov. 1:24-33; Isa. 55:6). The Bible says now is the day of salvation. Don't wait any longer.

But, Christian, if you've been ignoring your sin, it's never going to get easier to repent than it is right now. When we wait and delay, our stubbornness digs in more deeply; our sin binds more tightly.

**4. The blessings of an honest relationship with God (6b-11, 1-2)**

David was hiding his sin from God; but then when he humbled himself in repentance he hid himself in God. ***Maybe we could say that we are always either hiding from God or hiding in God.***

When David hid himself in God, everywhere he turned David found reason to rejoice (vv 7, 10). The humble, open, repentant, honest sinner finds God's goodness on every side (v. 11).

All of this connects back to verses 1 and 2 “How **blessed!**” The blessed man is the man who is ***living the good life***. Life the way it was meant to be lived

And this gets to the core desire of our hearts. **What we all want is to live the good life.**

- Why is everything around you relentlessly promising you the good life?
- Because this desire drives your heart, and if a marketer wants to make money off of you, he must promise you the good life.
- God does it all the time—He says here, here is the good life. Come, take it, have it, enjoy it, shout for joy. **The good life is found in a right relationship with God.**
- The good life is actually found when you aren't a sinner who is hiding, deceiving, ignoring, but walking in humility and repentance and honesty before God.

If God has taken His “heavy hand” and placed it upon you, in His tender love for you, He is on a rescue mission to pull you out of hiding, to bring you back to the joy of your salvation, to the blessings of a humble, honest, open relationship with Him.

*You're going to live as a sinner this week. But what kind of sinner will you be? Deceitful, denying, silent, hiding, ignoring - or humble, open, repentant, honest?*

