

1924a - Psalm 51.1-4 DAVID'S CONFESSION

PRELIMS. Now all of us have **guilt!** Because all of us have **sinned!** This psalm is from a man who is **filled with guilt.** Because he sinned - greatly! King David committed **adultery** and then **murder** to **cover it up!** Big sins! What made the sins even **worse** was that David was **recognised** throughout the world, as a **great saint of God!** The sins of a silly teenager are not equal in the sight of the world to the same sins of an experienced, privileged, well positioned adult! Saville!

The great thing about the Christian faith is that we **come to Christ FOR the removal** of our **guilt!** That is what is happening here. David is coming to Christ in the OT way. He is full of **blood-guiltiness** (14), so he **confesses** and offers the sacrifices of God **with a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart** (17)! You can make all the sacrifices in the world but **if** there is **not** a broken spirit and contrite heart, they are of **no effect** at all! Its the same today! But if we do have a broken heart before God over our sins, our sin **is forgiven!** End of story!! We are **whiter than snow!**

Now **after** we have **confessed** our sin to God (and anyone else involved), God does **not want** us to **grovel** in our **own conviction** of sin! It is **inappropriate** for a **believer**, who has confessed his sins to God to be publicly **crawling** in the dust of **self-abasement**, when the **blood of Christ has cleansed** him! It is entirely **appropriate** to be **humble/thankful**, but not to 'advertise' your shame! It is the **Pharisees** who **disfigure** their faces to **appear to men** to be grave and holy! God **delights** in **forgiving** His people their sins when He sees them humble before Him in submission.

What **identifies** God's people is the **after-effects** of sin! They **are convicted** but they **go to God** and **receive forgiveness!** David went to a God he **knew** he had **wronged!** Unlike the **heathen** who have no god to go to, David repaired to God for **confession/healing!** David was **troubled** that he had sinned against the God that had **blessed** him so much! David was **hurt** that he wronged the God that had been so good to him. He was full of **repentance** and **remorse!**

His Understanding of God - God had **2 main ways** of dealing with

sinning saints! (a) in **discipline / chastisement** or (b) in **pure grace!** God sometimes completely forgives us without a rebuke! Isn't that right? or He may choose to judge us on earth! It was God's **prerogative** - we are in the hands of God! It is His call! But whatever happens God will be **justified** and **blameless** in His **judgment** on David (4b). David had to wait in humble submission before his Judge!

David **knew** God was looking for **truth in the inward being** (6) in the **soul** of David - thus **create in me a clean heart...and renew a right spirit within me** (10) Deep spiritual matters, **not surface** stuff!

David **knew** God could make him **whiter than snow** (7) Yes!! How? By the blood of X- **symbolised** by the **blood offerings** of **innocent lambs!** It is part of **saving faith** to believe that God is a **forgiving God** - to say is 'no mercy for me' is **unbelief** and a **denial** of X's **atoning** sacrifice! You are saying the blood of Jesus Christ is **not good enough** to cover my sins! **Heresy!!** Judas lacked this faith! To say 'there is no mercy for me' is to **deny** God's **Almighty power/will!**

David's Confession! It was **personal!** *I know my transgressions, my sin is ever before me* (3) it was **not someone else's sin** that **troubled** him!! We can be often bothered about other people's sins but when God is at work in you, you **don't notice** other people's sins - you are so troubled by your own! David seemed to be the only sinner in the world that day! Remember the disciples *It is I !!!*

Not one sin only! *my transgressions* (1,3) *blot out all my iniquities* (9) it was **not** 'If I was able to get this **one sin** out of my life I would be clean and right before God'. It was **not** 'This is the **only** thing I've ever done wrong - if I could just blot out this **one thing** I'd be clean! This is the **only** time I have put a foot wrong!' Some people really do **think like that!** If you think like that, then I would be afraid that you have never met Jesus X in the gospel or seen His glory! If you think you have **only one type of sin your wrong!**

Against You, You ONLY have I sinned (4) Not Bathsheba, not Uriah, but **God!** God was **big** before him! David almost **only** saw God! It does **not** mean he did **not sin** against Bathsheba and Uriah - but by **comparison** - they were 'small' - **God** was the one that was sinned

against! David saw God as the **primary** one that was **injured** - not of course ignoring the wrongs done to Bathsheba and Uriah. But it was not enough to put it right with them - God was the One that was truly **injured** and he needed to **repent!**]

It was **not** the rebuke on himself that was big to David, nor was it the **concern** about the **consequences** of his sin for himself, but rather the **insult** and the **harm** done to **true religion** was the big concern to David! Certainly the **public disgrace** was a concern but also the **Cause of the Lord** was badly damaged by his sin! David had been anxious throughout his reign to maintain the ways of the Lord, and here he was himself bringing tremendous damage to God's great name! Bringing **discredit** to the Lord's Cause. Note....

True repentance is for **purity of heart!** Look: *wash me thoroughly...cleanse me from my sin... Purge me* (2,7). David is concerned about **truth in the inward being** (6) + *renew a right spirit within me* (10). David is after holiness, not just to be free from punishment! He wants to be like Christ! True repentance means not just admitting sin it but **hating** it! David said *I hate the thoughts of vanity* (Psa 119:113 Met Ver) **All convicted** criminals want to be delivered from the **consequences** of sin, but all do not want to be **clean, pure, upright, holy!** It is said that John Profumo who as a Cabinet minister and had brought the nation into disgrace in the early 1960s, spent the rest of his life in **hiding** and working away in a corner of an office to make 'payment' for his sin - but no!

True confession and true repentance is **more than penance/self-sacrifice** for *For You will not delight in sacrifice or I would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering - No - the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart you will not despise* (17).

His Prayer and Plea. *Behold I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me* ie **Remember** I was **born a sinner!** Sin is part of my 'make-up'! He is really saying, I am a sinner and I **need grace**, complete and total unmerited grace from God! But **regeneration did not eradicate** the inward corruption! *I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and*

making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members (Rom 7:23). So God's people still have the **propensity** to sin! *the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh...to keep you from doing the things you want to do* (Gal 5:17).

His prayer? *Have mercy on me O God according to Your steadfast love!*(1) **Steadfast love!!** Yes *according to Your abundant mercy* (1)!! David knew God **abounded in love and forgiveness?** But up to now he had **not enjoyed** forgiveness - because he had not confessed it! **APP** Friends - do you know God is **waiting** to forgive you your sins - if you would just confess them! But that is our problem - we do **not realise** we have sinned against God, so we do not confess!

So, if we have never come to Christ, or if we have not been enjoying God's presence of late, our **first** need is to **pray** to be **aware** of our sins which are grieving God right now! You see David was at least a year (a child was born), before he **really realised** what he had done! He was spiritually blind to the significance of his sins for at least a year! **Imagine**, adultery and murder! **APP** There are many people going around today who are **not aware** they have sinned against God at all. Many people think they are fine with God and man. But unless we have 'flown' to Jesus Christ for refuge, we are lost!

We all must pray this: - **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation!** (12) David was missing the joy of fellowship and communion with God - and he hardly noticed! David had been so full of himself and his own interests that he '**forgot**' or never noticed he had lost God's blessing! He was oblivious to God's withdrawal of love. That is **backsliding!**

But once he **confessed** he prayed: *take not You Holy Spirit from me* (11b) He was afraid he had 'chased God out of his life'!

But God is so gracious, and will not abandon us, although we may sin against Him - and David knew that - so he cried *Let me hear JOY and gladness let the bones that You have broken REJOICE!!*(8) Christian rejoice!!