

## 32.1 THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS AND THE TORMENT OF UNCONFESED SIN: Psalm 32

**INTRODUCTION.** Do you want to be happy or sad? Joyful or miserable? Stable and steadfast or always depressed and anxious?

**DOCTRINE.** A Christian is most happy because his sins are forgiven, and he can continually confess his sins to God.

A sinner is most miserable because his sins are not forgiven, and he continually hides his sins from God.

**CONTEXT.** David wrote this Psalm, you see, and it is called a Maskil. It seems a Maskil was a type of song written for instruction. It is more like teaching us truths about spiritual realities rather than guiding us in how to praise or pray. (REMIND OF DOCTRINE AGAIN).

**OUTLINE.** Now, there are nine major truths we should glean from Psalm 32. *WE ARE GOING TO SPEND A MAJORITY OF OUR TIME IN VERSES 1-5, and then I will point out to you the instructions we receive in verses 6-10 at the end of the sermon.*

### I. DO YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY? THEN CONFESS YOUR SINS TO GOD AND GET THEM FORGIVEN THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST (Ps. 32:1-2).

#### Psalm 32:1-2

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

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

#### Q1. What is sin?

**A.** Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the Law of God.

#### Q2. What is the wages of sin?

**A.** Death. Spiritual death now, physical and spiritual death forever, later.

#### Q3. Why is the wages of sin against God eternal death and judgement?

**A.** Because God created you in His image, after His likeness. He created you to reflect Him in such a way that the whole creation would see a little picture of how glorious He is.

We reflect God's glory when we love Him and obey His commandments.

We defame and defile God's glory when we do not love Him and rebel against His commandments.

**RQ.** Have you loved the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loved your neighbor as yourself? **A.** No! You know you have primarily and principle loved yourself, and others, and things, and fame, and money, and man-pleasing, and toys, and lusts far more than you have loved God!

**BOYS AND GIRLS,** have you loved and obeyed God as you should every day of your life? (Go through the Ten Commandments)

**Hold the Law of God up to yourself like a mirror and see how far you fall short of living for God's glory, as He has created you to! See the heinousness of sin. A created being from the dirt, made to image God, has rebelled against Him and sought to glorify and enjoy himself rather than his holy and kind Sovereign.**

**The wages of sin is death. Death now, death forever. What else do rebels to the Holy King deserve?**

The sobering reality that every one of you have to come to terms with is this: "There is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

**This means, if they would be happy and not miserable forever, everyone who has ever lived needs to get their transgressions forgiven and their sin covered. That includes even you.**

- **You need to have your transgressions forgiven!** This happens through the substitutionary death of Christ in place of His people—all who will believe in Him.
  - **When you turn from your sin and believe on Christ, it is as if God carries your sins off your back and throws them into a sea without bottom or shore.**
- **You need to have your sins covered!** This happens through the righteous life of Christ which gets credited to your account when you believe on Him for salvation.
  - **When you repent and believe on Christ for salvation, it is as if God takes the righteous robe off of His Son, the Lord Jesus, and clothes you with it. Your sin is covered by Christ's righteousness, who perfectly obeyed the Law of God in His life and death.**
    - **Romans 4:4-8** "4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:  
7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;

8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

Let me give you four specific reasons a Christian is most happy in this life, as it pertains to forgiveness:

**I) A Christian is most happy in this life because, though he deserves to have himself blotted out for his sins, he has his sins blotted out!**

- **Of unbelievers God says in Psalm 69:28,** "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous."
  - **Yet of those who belong to Christ, God says in Isaiah 44:22,** "I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you."

**BOYS AND GIRLS, our sins are blotted out by Christ's blood.**

God has blotted our sins out without blotting us out by blotting Christ out.  
Hallelujah!

**II) A Christian is most happy in this life because, though his hands are full of blood, God washes them clean through the death of His Son!**

- **Isaiah 1:18**  
"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:  
though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool."

**III) A Christian is most happy in this life because, though he is a Lawbreaker that deserves death and hell, God cancelled the record of debt that stood against us through Christ's satisfaction on the cross!**

- **Colossians 2:14** "[God cancelled] the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross."
  - **HANNIBAL GAMMON:** "God, in forgiving the sins of the righteous, esteems them as no sins, blotting them out and nailing them to his Son's cross."

**IV) A Christian is most happy in this life because, God has removed his transgressions from him as far as the East is from the West!**

- **Psalm 103:11-13**  
"11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.  
13 As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him."

DO YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY? THEN CONFESS YOUR SINS TO GOD AND GET THEM FORGIVEN THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST (Ps. 32:1-2).

## **II. DO YOU WANT TO BE MISERABLE? THEN DO NOT CONFESS YOUR SINS AND DO NOT GET THEM FORGIVEN THROUGH CHRIST (Ps. 32:3-4).**

### **Psalm 32:3-4**

"3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*"

**I) When you harbor unconfessed sin, your soul will feel worn out and burdened (Ps. 32:3a).**

**Psalm 32:3a** "For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away."

**II) When you harbor unconfessed sin, your soul will feel deep grief and lead to depression (Ps. 32:3b).**

**Psalm 32:3b** "through my groaning all day long."

**III) When you harbor unconfessed sin, God's hand will be heavy upon you in discipline, so that you would repent (Ps. 32:3c).**

**Psalm 32:4a** "For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;"

**IV) When you harbor unconfessed sin, your very strength will be dried up like a drought in the heat of summer (Ps. 32:3d).**

**Psalm 32:4b** "my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*"

## **III. DO YOU WANT TO HAVE YOUR SINS FORGIVEN? THEN CONFESS YOUR SIN TO GOD AND LOOK TO CHRIST IN FAITH (Ps. 32:5).**

### **Psalm 32:5**

"5 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. *Selah*"

- **1 John 1:8-9** "8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

**RICHARD CAPEL:** "No man was ever kept out of Heaven for his confessed wickedness, but many are for their supposed goodness!"

But what does it look like to truly confess my sin to God? Let me point out to you these four truths from verse 5 in psalm 32.

**I) To truly confess your sin to God means you must acknowledge and own your sin before God (Ps. 32:5a).**

- **Psalm 32:5a** "I acknowledged my sin to you,"

**II) To truly confess your sin to God means you must not try to cover your sin by hiding or blame-shifting (Ps. 32:5b).**

- **Psalm 32:5b** "and I did not cover my iniquity..."
  - **BOYS AND GIRLS**, when was the last time your mom or dad confronted you about something you did wrong, and you lied about it and said it was someone else? That is not confession, that is hiding or blame-shifting.

**III) To truly confess your sin to God speak to Him in prayer, revealing all your known sins (Ps. 32:5c).**

- **Psalm 32:5c** "I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,'"

**IV) To truly confess your sin to God you must look to Christ in faith, and expect that God will forgive you of your sins, however big and however many (Ps. 32:5d).**

- **Psalm 32:5d** "and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*"
  - He forgave the iniquity of my sin means "He carried away the guilt of my sin." Just like the scapegoat in Leviticus 16. **BOYS AND GIRLS (Scapegoat).**

Psalm 32:1-5 - A Maskil of David. Spurgeon: "Maskil = instructive."

[1] Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

whose sin is covered.

Ps. 1:1 (Happy)  
 rebellion (revolt against God)  
 taken away / carried off (The Cross)  
 Like Adam/Eve covered w/ animal skin  
 Like saints covered w/ Christ's blood and satisfaction

[2] Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,

and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

"Adam" prep.  
 imputes / reckons (adverb)  
 perversity / depravity / punishment for iniquity  
 especially of moral character (conjunction)  
 treachery / idleness (adverb)

[3] For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away

Because (conjunction) i.e. did not confess to God  
 i.e. essence, substance, self (the self)  
 wore out / decayed

through my groaning all day long.

prep. roaring / tumbling / moaning (i.e. grief)

[4] For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

Because (conjunction) Hand of FL discipline (preposition)

my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

moisture was turned (preposition) drought (like 2022 summer) Pause and meditate

[5] I acknowledged my sin to you,

(made known) / (declared) Confession

and I did not cover my iniquity;

conceal (conjunction) perversity / depraved behavior (adverb)  
 gun = good, sin = bad

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

with the mouth or heart (can mean intensively to wring the hands) plural (preposition)

and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

took away / carried off (conjunction) guilt (verb 1st singular) verb 1st singular / verb 4th singular