

## So That Through the Encouragement of the Scriptures We Might Have Hope

Romans 15:4 “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

*Even a passage as sad as this was written to give us hope!*

## How Sin Grows

### Sin in its infancy

2 Sam. 5:2 “In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’”

But now David is not leading his people. He is on the couch. Then looking at Bathsheba. Then inquiring about her. Then sleeping with her. Why didn’t he listen to his conscience?

### Sin multiplying

*The cover up (vv. 6-21)*

*The consequences (vv. 22-24)*

### The stronghold of sin

*The calloused heart (v. 25)*

*“Recognize how hard our heart becomes when we don’t deal with the stirrings of our conscience.” –  
Alistair Begg*

## How Sin is Overcome

### David’s moral failure mirrors Saul’s fall.

1. Both broke God’s expressed commandments.
2. Both are confronted by a prophet in a way they can understand.
3. Both will lose what they have to their “neighbor” (1 Samuel 15:28 and 2 Samuel 12:11).

### Saul’s story, 1 Samuel 15:17-21

**Samuel:** “And the LORD sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’<sup>19</sup> Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the LORD?”

**Saul:** “I have obeyed the voice of the LORD. I have gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction.<sup>21</sup> But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.”

David’s story, 2 Samuel 12:15-17

**Nathan:** “You are the man!”

**David:** “I have sinned.”

Confessing your sin vs. justifying your sin

Confess comes from a Greek compound word, literally means, “To say the same.”

God has put away your sin.

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

**How Sin Won’t Rule You Forever**

There will remain on this side of heaven the consequences of sin.

*Problems in the family (wives given to his neighbor who actually is Absalom, his son)*

God will enter into your life to start to work on your sin.

**Eugene Peterson** “In the story up to this point, David has used everyone. Bathsheba is an object. Uriah is an obstruction. Joab is a tool. David is not a server of people; he is a user of people.”

**Robert Alter** “For the first time in chapters, David speaks not out of political motivation. In place of David, the wielder of power, we see a vulnerable David. This is how he will appear for the rest of his life. He will not be using people anymore.”

*David was in idolatry; love of women and power. He was not resting, content and joyful, in God. But after this story, his repentance results in him being a changed man.*

**Questions for Study and Reflection**

1. What strikes you most about the story of David and Bathsheba?
2. Why do we need to understand that even great men and women of faith can commit heinous sins?
3. Why does sin stem from idolatry? Why was David not content with what he had?
4. Is there a way you have not listened to your conscience; is there a sin you need to confess? Talk about this with a brother or sister in Christ.