



**Shocking Truth For Today
True Happiness Only Exists In Our Sin Being Forgiven And Only Jesus Can Do That!
Psalm 32**

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The major goal of our culture today is the achievement of happiness. The problem is how that is defined and where most go looking. For some they go searching for it in things, others in the religion de jour and for others they think happiness comes as a result of an endless number of lovers with no commitment ever taking place. Others think happiness lies in doing what they want to do no matter what and no matter who it injures to include themselves. And then there are those who believe happiness lies in being a true



clone of the culture. Confusion reigns supreme in the culture seen in some not even sure of their sex or what marriage means. The results, at the end of the day, they are still empty and unfulfilled.

It is the search for happiness in all the wrong places that even though there are those who say there is a revival taking place today, the signs, unless there is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit leading to a true revolution, is one of serious preparation for the coming of the Tribulation in the younger generations. Dr. George Barna at the Cultural Research Center of Arizona Christian University is discovering rather sobering information that as we come to Psalm 32, we will discover where the true answer lies. And it is not in the culture or doing your own thing. Where is the culture?

“The researcher explained, “If you follow the response patterns of the groups that are increasingly influential in American society, you can see the moral redefinition unfolding. The adult portion of Gen Z is currently less than 10% of the adult population, but when all the members of that generation are 18 or older, that group will be nearly four times their current proportion of the total adult population. Add to that the fact that the atheist and agnostic percentage of the nation’s population today is about one-quarter of all adults, remains one of the fastest growing religious segments in the United States, and one that will likely continue to grow in the next decade or two. A third piece of the cultural puzzle is the Asian-American population, which has also been a rapidly growing segment, and will continue to grow steadily in the coming years. In other words, some of the major growth drivers of our population are people groups that reject biblical morality,” Barna continued. “As we seek to understand why America is being transformed from a Bible-honoring, traditional morality population to one that is more laissezfaire or even aggressively secular in its views of right and wrong or sin and virtue, the demographic curves provide important insights. Three influential subgroups are moving the culture toward their preferred worldview, which is at odds with biblical morality. And those subgroups have cultural momentum on their side.” To drive home the point, Barna specified the dominant perspectives of those segments. “Together, a majority of those groups approve of lying for personal benefit, sex on demand, abortion, idolatry, and various lifestyle vices. Their will is not monolithic—there are other population segments larger in size, or which possess considerable counter-balancing influence. However, the trajectory of the three segments indicates they have considerable favor and impact within today’s society. Those who ignore the cultural influence they wield do so at their own peril.” Barna summed up his observations by stating that unless the Christian Church—both as an accumulation of individual believers as well as a coalition of religious institutions—becomes more engaged in the intentional determination of the moral and spiritual framework of American society, traditional biblical morality will be a historical footnote within a couple of decades. **“Our national moral code is increasingly being shaped by cultural rather than spiritual forces,” he said. “If Christians in America want a nation based on biblical morality, they must be clearer and more assertive in teaching, evaluating, and modeling of the biblical worldview and its resultant lifestyle choices. As matters stand now, the biblical worldview is poised to lose what little ground it currently occupies in America, including an increased loss of influence related to our national morality.”** (Barna 2025)

As followers of Jesus Christ, it is becoming increasingly incumbent on us to break the cultural mold and decide to fully follow Christ, and the time to do so is right now.

Here in Psalm 32, David shocks us with a declaration of where true happiness lies. It is not found in the culture or in doing your own thing. He knows, he tried. Nathan the Prophet has just recently visited him. As a result of that visit, David tells us the road to true happiness in this life as well as the next. It is in knowing that you know that your sins have been forgiven.

He is in celebration here in Psalm 32 over something only God can provide, assurance of His pardon for our sin and restoration. In his forgiven state as a result of repenting over the events in 1 Samuel 11, he is rejoicing in the forgiveness only God can provide.



The goal of the Holy Spirit in inspiring David to write this is a goal the Lord still has for us today. A realization that for all of us, real joy and happiness in this life only exists in Him and He is the only one who can provide this as He gives us His Holy Spirit when we agree with His assessment, confess our sin and believe in what Christ did for us. True joy and happiness is knowing we are forgiven in Christ.

We reflect that to our culture today. To be and do what He has charged us with as His church in our culture today and in the face of what appears to be increasingly bad news requires the Holy Spirit empowering us to do this. This is why we are here in South Florida and in Hobe Sound.

Calvary Chapel is here today to tell this generation about the good news of Jesus Christ and to allow the Holy Spirit to use us in His endeavors in these last days before we are taken away by Jesus to be with Him forever.

Let's look at our text in Psalm 32.

Psalm 32:title-11

"A Psalm of David. A Maskil. How blessed is he whose wrongdoing is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! How blessed is a person whose guilt the LORD does not take into account, And in whose spirit there is no deceit! When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality failed as with the dry heat of summer. Selah I acknowledged my sin to You, And I did not hide my guilt; I said, "I will confess my wrongdoings to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Certainly in a flood of great waters, they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; You keep me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will advise you with My eye upon you. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you. The sorrows of the wicked are many, But the one who trusts in the LORD, goodness will surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart." (NASB 2020)

So, what happens when you listen to the Holy Spirit and agree with Him, repent of your sin and believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sin and then rose from the dead? I asked that question just prior to becoming a believer. Will I feel different? Will I know that something has happened? Here in Psalm 32:1, David tells us exactly what happens, and I can attest to that being a reality for me.

He starts off by saying "How blessed is he whose wrongdoing is forgiven." The word translated blessed is אָשֵׁר (asre) and David uses this word 26 times in the Psalms. There is another word too that is used elsewhere, baruch, but David chose asre.

Asre means happy, blessed is he who. (Koehler, et al. 1994-2000, 100)

This is literally a cry of happiness. David is being consistent with how this word is different from baruch which is usually connected with the priestly and other blessings. In Hebrew, "this cry of happiness never refers to God (even in Dt. 33:29 Israel is happy because she has been saved by God). The desire for happiness is different from the blessing in that it demands that the believer do certain things: he must come to Zion (Ps. 65:5[4]; 84:5[4]; as well as Isa. 30:18; cf. v. 19), where refuge (chasah) is to be found (Ps. 2:12; 34:9[8]; cf. 84:13[12]), and where sins are forgiven (32:1, 2). (Cazelles 1977, 446)

When we come to Christ, we are forgiven, and that did indeed cause joy in my life that began that day. Suddenly some of the verses I memorized earlier in my life to shame Christian kids and show them a pagan could do this too, were on replay mode in my mind.



We might want to define this as happy but that is not adequate due to our culture anymore. It is more. “The Hebrew root means “to go straight” or “march forward” and indicates not a condition, but a way of life. In other psalms, this happiness comes from life choices and training, but here we learn that is not the entire formula, for one’s “happiness” is also completely dependent on God’s forgiving grace. First, the passive voice of v. 1 makes it clear that this is God’s action and not human. God forgives and God covers. Second, God restores this one back to a state of grace, so this one is restored to full humanity (v. 2). Forgiven and like pre-Genesis 3.” (Jacobson and Tanner 2014, 308)

And yes, there are degrees of this “joy” over being forgiven. Jesus referred to that when a woman chose to clean his feet.

Luke 7:37–39

“And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.”” (ESV)

We are not told who this woman was, only she was a sinner.

In other words, she had a rather sordid reputation. This is a rather bold act for her even to go into the house much less wash Jesus’ feet with her tears. Jesus though knows all about her and used her as an example of the power of forgiveness with the Pharisee, Simon. He continues with a parable.

Luke 7:40–43

“And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.” “A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.”” (ESV)

Is Jesus setting a trap for Simon? Yes, he is.

Luke 7:44–50

“Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”” (ESV)

This poor woman from the streets, without hope, wanted forgiveness. The God of heaven is there and He has forgiven her. Now He tells Simon, “You have judged correctly. You said that the one who owed the most would naturally be the one who would love him most. Well, she was a great sinner and has been forgiven a whole lot. But you, because you don’t think you are a sinner, have not even asked for forgiveness.” And that hypocritical old Pharisee sat there—an unforgiven sinner. (McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary 1997, 280)



Coming back to our text, the realization for one who has been forgiven, whether a lot or a little, is joy. But for the one who has come to the Lord late in life, or who has been busy indulging the flesh, the impact, the joy perceived may be higher than for a child.

David intentionally sinned, adultery, murder, lying, making others sin on his behalf, yes to all counts. But now, he is forgiven.

Don't get me wrong here, there is still joy no matter how much we have been forgiven, but the realization that all I have done in my entire life has now been forgiven by the Lord because of Jesus, He is the one doing it, He is the one covering the sin and He is the one restoring you and me to a place we have never been before, sinless perfection in Jesus Christ. No, we are not perfect, far from it, but we now have the righteousness of Christ imputed to us and when God sees us, He sees the righteousness of Jesus. And all we can do is rejoice.

In this declaration, God permits Christ to stand in our place to bear our punishment and credits us with the righteousness of Christ. He exchanges our guilt for his holiness. (Mueller 2006, 153)

Why would He do this? His love and grace.

Ephesians 2:8

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God," (ESV)

Is grace showing up here in Psalm 32? Absolutely. If our sin has been forgiven and we have been restored, we are blessed, we are incredibly happy simply because He has done this for us. God doesn't have to, but because of who He is and because He loves us, His grace is extended to us through Christ and when we come to Him, our sin is covered, and we are restored to the condition of again being fully human. We are indeed made new and whole.

Two things have happened.

The first deals with our sins. God does not impute our sins to us. In other words, he does not hold us accountable for those sins. But sin is not overlooked; God imputes our sin to Christ. Our guilt is charged against him and Jesus bore the sentence of death for that sin. He did nothing to deserve death; it is our fault. (Mueller 2006, 153)

2 Corinthians 5:19

"that is, **in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them**, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." (ESV)

2 Corinthians 5:21

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (ESV)

The second thing God does is He then imputes Christ's righteousness to us. You and I have not lived a holy and blameless life, Jesus did. God credits us, when we believe, with the holiness that was in Christ. Call it, pertaining to us, alien righteousness.

Alien righteousness—the righteousness of Christ that is imputed to sinful humans from outside of themselves. They are declared righteous, but the righteousness belongs to Christ alone. (Mueller 2006, 287)



Martin Luther actually coined that phrase. “In Latin, *iustitia aliena*, better translated ‘righteousness bestowed from outside the person’. Luther used it as a synonym for ‘passive righteousness’, the identity God gives believers out of unconditional grace and mercy.” (Kolb, et al. 2014, 639)

David tells us that goes and does three things to our sin. We are forgiven of our wrongdoing, our *נפש* (*pesa*), The word means more than just simple wrongdoing.

It means “crime...rebellion, revolt...offence concerning property...offence concerning persons and property...crime in general, criminal actions (acts which break relationships within the community and with God)...wantonness and wrongdoing.” (Koehler, et al. 1994-2000, 981)

He has forgiven our “open rebellion and disloyalty, a departure grounded in defiance. It is willful sin.” (Smith and Akin 2022, 239)

Did David sin willfully? Yes. Do we? Sorry to say, but at times, yes.

But thanks to Jesus, our sin has been covered, atoned for by Him. Animal sacrifice pointed to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Because of our confession of sin to Him, agreeing with His assessment of our condition, He has covered, removed and forgiven us of our sin. The word for sin is an archery term and means misses the mark.

Finally, God will not, because of His grace, no matter how guilty we feel, but because we have turned to Him, He will not count our sin.

The term translated guilt is *און* (*awon*).

The word means “sin, wickedness, iniquity, i.e., wrongdoing, with a focus of liability or guilt for this wrong incurred...guilt, i.e., a judicial state of being liable for a wrong done, and so receive a punishment or judicial sentence...punishment, i.e., justly inflict pain or damage to an object as a consequence of the object’s state of guilt or liability. (Swanson 1997)

When we come to Christ, He sees our heart. Are we truly changing our mind and seeking Him or are we thinking this is nothing more than fire insurance.

Those who are justified from fault are sanctified from falsehood. A liar is not a forgiven soul. Treachery, double-dealing, chicanery, dissimulation, are lineaments of the devil’s children, but he who is washed from sin is truthful, honest, simple, and childlike. There can be no blessedness to tricksters with their plans, and tricks, and shuffling, and pretending: they are too much afraid of discovery to be at ease; their house is built on the volcano’s brink, and eternal destruction must be their portion. (Spurgeon n.d., 82)

Forgiveness is joy. David tells us that and we, as followers of Jesus Christ, know that to be truth in our lives. But what about our BC days?

David talks about what it was like before he repented of his sin. He thought that not talking about what he did would make it go away; we tend to do the same. It is this that also raises the temperatures of some we talk to about the Lord since we are reminding them of their unforgiven sin problem and most do not like to be reminded of that.

Psalms 32:3–4

“When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality failed as with the dry heat of summer. Selah” (NASB 2020)



David should have known better than to stay home when the Army was in the field (2 Samuel 11:1). He knew better when he got an eyeful of the next-door neighbor on her roof taking a bath and should have turned away (2 Samuel 11:2). But he didn't and before everything was done, Uriah, one of his mighty men, was dead, Bathsheba was pregnant, and David had his general commit perfidy on his behalf in order to have Uriah killed in combat.

Talk about a coverup. The sins have been hidden, or so David thought. His staff knew. His general knew. God knew. He didn't talk about it, but it was always there just under the surface, festering. Sin does that. Fast forward almost a year later, the dust has settled and David was miserable. His heart, his conscience was talking to him, and he was working hard to keep the conviction under control. Then Nathan the Prophet comes calling and tells David a story about a man who took a lamb, a family pet actually, from someone else and ordered it slaughtered and fed to another (2 Samuel 12:4). This enraged David until Nathan dropped the hammer.

2 Samuel 12:7-9

"Then Nathan said to David, "You are that man! The LORD, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. I gave you your master's house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. Why, then, have you despised the word of the LORD and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife." (NLT)

David would repent, and yes there were consequences to his sin. There always are consequences to sin. But here, he tells us what it was like for him personally and physically to try and keep everything hidden.

What we see here is a law of life in God's world. If you bottle up sin in your soul it will eventually leak out like acid and eat away at your bones. Unconfessed sin is like a festering sore. You can ignore it for a while, but not forever. (Storms 2016, Ps 32)

Moses had warned those tribes who wanted to settle on the east side of the Jordan, that they still needed to send soldiers to conquer the land to which they promised to do so, and Moses' response provides us an angle of sowing and reaping from sin.

Numbers 32:23

"But if you fail to keep your word, then you will have sinned against the LORD, and **you may be sure that your sin will find you out.**" (NLT)

"Sin itself is virtually personified as one who will wend its way through any obstacles to find the guilty. See Gen. 4:7, where sin is said to be a demon crouching by the door waiting to spring upon the one coming outside. In other words, the consequences of sin are unavoidable." (Ashley 1993, 613) The one who sins, will reap what they sow, consider that a firm fixed law of the universe unless or until repentance takes place.

But while living with the unconfessed sin, David was miserable. He began to lose weight. He had trouble sleeping. All his old injuries began to ache and life was now a struggle. You see, he was a believer.

Believers cannot and will not get away with sin and not have impacts attached to that sin all taking place to drive us back into the arms of the Savior.

For us the lesson here is simple, as a follower of Jesus Christ, we cannot and will not get away with sin. If you have ever met someone who is deep into a sinful lifestyle and they tell you they are Christians, how comfortable are they in the life they are living. Any issues, illness, troubles?



If you are a child of God, you can sin, but you cannot get by with it. That is the difference between the saved and the unsaved man. If you are a man of the world, you can get by with your sin temporarily, but a child of God cannot. (McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary 1997, 730)

David realized that thanks to Nathan. This man of God walked right into the throne room and then cornered David with his sin.

The way David had been living, prepared him for this, he really did indeed need to repent. He knew it. So do we if we have drifted.

2 Samuel 12:13–15

"Then David confessed to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the LORD.' Nathan replied, 'Yes, but the LORD has forgiven you, and you won't die for this sin. Nevertheless, because you have shown utter contempt for the word of the LORD by doing this, your child will die.'" After Nathan returned to his home, the LORD sent a deadly illness to the child of David and Uriah's wife." (NLT)

David reaped what he sowed. The child was taken home to be with the Lord, and David would recognize that is where young children go when they die prematurely.

2 Samuel 12:22–23

"David replied, 'I fasted and wept while the child was alive, for I said, 'Perhaps the LORD will be gracious to me and let the child live.' But why should I fast when he is dead? Can I bring him back again? **I will go to him one day, but he cannot return to me.**'" (NLT)

David was miserable until he repented. He still suffered the consequences for his sin. I have counseled many people who allege to be followers of Jesus Christ, they are showing, in what is taking place in their life, that the Lord is trying to get their attention. They show up at church looking for an answer and not one, when hearing the answer was to repent, did they want to go there.

They would want a solution to the problem their sin has created. Literally they would want me to partner with them and affirm their current life choices by then giving them some resources to tide them over until pay day, but that would not fix the problem, the sin in their life they needed to repent of. I am amazed at how upfront folks can be to tell you of the bad choices they made and then defend those choices. And when I said no, things you hear include, "Well, I guess that means I sleep in the car under a bridge tonight." If that is what must happen to get them to repent, then sorry, enjoy your stay under the bridge. God is into tough love at times when we run from Him.

David is our example. He repented.

Psalms 32:5

"I acknowledged my sin to You, And I did not hide my guilt; I said, 'I will confess my wrongdoings to the LORD'; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah" (NASB 2020)

This is good news for the follower of Jesus Christ who has strayed. It is always time to return to the Lord. But why didn't David until confronted and why didn't those I counseled? They all thought they could handle it their way as to repent would mean agreeing that what they did was wrong and there would be consequences.

There will be consequences either way. Why not come back to the Lord today? Stop running.



1 John 1:7–10

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. **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.** If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” (ESV)

For David, now being back in relationship with the Lord, having his sin forgiven and the peace he is realizing because of that, he wants everyone to know what they should do while there is still time.

Psalms 32:6–7

“Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Certainly in a flood of great waters, they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; You keep me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah” (NASB 2020)

This is a hard truth for us to understand, but everything in our lives is Father filtered. Yes, even the times we have wandered off and sinned doing our own thing. Those times do not catch God off guard. I do not see Jesus standing next to the Father when I slip off and sin saying, “I didn’t see that one coming.” No, the Lord knows. And He still chooses to love us anyhow.

David has learned from what he subjected himself to. What he says here in verse 6 is because he has been there and he does not want anyone else to suffer as he did. David knows that not everyone will listen to him, just those who are godly, those who are following the Lord and wanting to walk after Him. But do so today, right now while He may be found.

Coming to Christ is also in the same line as well, today is the day of salvation, not tomorrow.

2 Corinthians 6:2

“Hear what God says: “When the time came for me to show you favour I heard you; when the day arrived for me to save you, I helped you.” Listen! **This is the hour to receive God’s favour; today is the day to be saved!**” (GNB)

We all think we have more time, we really don’t. “For there is the further consideration that God will not extend the period of grace indefinitely. As Isaiah 55:6 also shows, there is a time “when the Lord may be found,” implying that there is also a “too late.” When pardon has been granted—this is added as a further motivation—it will not be necessary for the Lord to use corrective measures, that is, great tribulation (here typified by the “flood of great waters”) in order to make a man aware of the fact that he has incurred divine displeasure. (Leupold 1959, 268)

Noah warned those around him for 120 years and no one believed him about what the Lord was going to do in judgment. Once the door closed on the Ark, it was too late. Today, we have an opportunity to come to Christ and to serve Him. But a day is coming very soon when those of us who have been warning, won’t be here.

Millions will celebrate that all the Christians are gone. Millions will also realize that the time they have is short and now there may be a death penalty attached to following Christ. The waters of judgement ended the time, the fires of judgment coming very soon will do the same.

As followers of Jesus, if we are into sinning and are refusing to repent, there will indeed come a time where the Lord simply removes us from the scene. Paul alluded to that as he was correcting the church in Corinth over some of the abuses they were engaged in regarding communion. There were some getting drunk at communion.



1 Corinthians 11:27–32

“But if you eat the bread and drink the wine in a way that isn’t worthy of the Lord, you sin against his body and blood. That’s why you must examine the way you eat and drink. If you fail to understand that you are the body of the Lord, you will condemn yourselves by the way you eat and drink. **That’s why many of you are sick and weak and why a lot of others have died.** If we carefully judge ourselves, we won’t be punished. But when the Lord judges and punishes us, he does it to keep us from being condemned with the rest of the world.” (CEV)

Returning back to the Lord is really important. I have never enjoyed discipline growing up and still don’t today.

As we keep short accounts and maintain our relationship with the Lord, we discover our hiding place as a follower of Jesus Christ is in Him. As we allow the Holy Spirit to empower us, He keeps from trouble. He keeps us from doing really stupid stuff. David knows, because he has done really stupid stuff in the past and does not want to go there again. So, where are you and I on this. Are we in fellowship and allowing the Lord to be our hiding place, or are we out of fellowship right now and by doing so, placing our selves in an exposed position to the enemy.

Yes, the Lord will indeed use the enemy as a means to bring us back to Him. It really is best to not to go there.

Psalms 32:8–11

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will advise you with My eye upon you. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you. The sorrows of the wicked are many, But the one who trusts in the LORD, goodness will surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.” (NASB 2020)

David has heard and been forgiven by the Lord. AS always, he took the time to listen to the Lord as well. Now he provides a word from the Lord for us, the same word he heard from the Lord for him.

The picture of the relationship the Lord desires to have with David as well as with you and me is one of intimacy. We are looking to Him to guide us and as we watch Him, literally walking forward and watching His eyes, we are being guided by what His eyes tell us.

The eyes go to the left, and we follow the direction He is looking at.

He is advising us the entire time as well.

How can we have a relationship with Jesus like that? Simple, talk to Him, that is called prayer. And as we have learned from David here in the psalms, be honest with Him as we talk to Him. You cannot flim flam God. You cannot build up His ego by using praise to try and get something you know you shouldn’t have. Yes, He has made promises to us and He loves us to remind Him of those as we talk to Him.

You see, reminding the Lord of His promises means we are studying and reading His word. We are looking to His advice there and then coming to Him saying we agree with that advice and want what He has guided us through the Holy Spirit to pray about or for.

And yes, the Lord has a sense of humor.



Psalm 32:9

“Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you.” (NASB 2020)

What does the Lord compare a follower of Jesus Christ who refuses to stay in fellowship looking to and listening to the Lord? God says, they are like hardheaded horse or worse, mules. Stubborn.

There are examples in the Bible for us of mule stubborn people. Pharaoh (Exodus 7:13-14). The entire nation of Israel at Mount Sinai while dancing before a golden calf (Deuteronomy 9:13).

Being stubborn about our sin, or our justification as to why we are sinning, and on and on is sin itself. “God considers stubbornness so great a sin that He included what seems today to be an overly-harsh punishment for a stubborn and rebellious son.” (Got Questions Ministries 2014-2021)

Deuteronomy 21:21

“Then all the men of his city must stone him to death. In this way you will purge wickedness from among you, and all Israel will hear about it and be afraid.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Romans 2:5

“But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath for yourselves in the day of wrath, when God’s righteous judgment is revealed!” (NET 2nd ed.)

Stubbornness is also reflected in another term, irreconcilable. That is a term that Paul would use to tell his protégé Timothy about what conditions would be like in the last days. And we are indeed there.

The culture around us today encourages this as almost a virtue. It isn’t. There are reasons to be stubborn, about God’s word, about how He tells us to live, about what He considers to be an abomination. But being stubborn because you want to be recognized for your sin?

2 Timothy 3:1–5

“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; avoid such people as these.” (NASB 2020)

God is clear, repent, don’t be stubborn, don’t act like a donkey about it. God really does not want to break us in discipline; He prefers to teach us as we look to Him.

Psalm 32:10–11

“The sorrows of the wicked are many, But the one who trusts in the LORD, goodness will surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.” (NASB 2020)

We are called to holiness, to repentance, to obedience because if not, we will not be happy, “the sorrows of the wicked are many.” When David declared to the planet, shocking all by telling us the only way to be happy is to be forgiven, he meant it. He is reflecting what the Lord is saying here.

As the psalm began on the note of high joy, so it closes with an exhortation to be joyful because of the experience of forgiveness each time it is granted...Carrying over the thought of the preceding verse, v. 10 thinks of those as the wicked who have many sorrows, who refuse to be led into the blessed experience



of forgiveness. God will indeed, as a general rule, be obliged to resort to disciplinary means to bring such to their senses. (Leupold 1959, 269)

We end with a call to praise.

Psalm 32:11

"Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart."
(NASB 2020)

Happiness is not only our privilege, but our duty. Truly we serve a generous God, since he makes it a part of our obedience to be joyful. How sinful are our rebellious murmurings! How natural does it seem that a man blest with forgiveness should be glad! (Spurgeon n.d., 85)

Let's pray.



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