

Psalm 32
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Psalm 32 begins by describing what it is to live with unconfessed sin. To be sure, keeping sin in is our preferred action. We see sin and we are embarrassed. Perhaps we are in denial, or maybe we fear of consequences of confessing sin. David says that there are consequences of unconfessed sins. The obvious one is that there is no forgiveness (1 John 1:9). But David also says that unconfessed sins are a damage to our vitality. It is not entirely clear how literal we should take this, but we need to consider that it may be precisely what it says; unconfessed sin causes us to suffer terribly.

David then turns to acknowledging sin. What constitutes acknowledging sin? First, it is accepting that it is present. Second, it is accepting that we are accountable for it. We are not acknowledging sin if we are blaming on others or on circumstances. It has to be our fault. Finally, it is accepting that by sinning we have offended God. Acknowledging sin is not sorrow alone, nor is it confession alone.

David then says that if a person is Godly, they will pray to confess their sins. What David is saying is that Godly people confess sins. David is uniquely defining godliness here. It is not as being without sin, but it is as being one who confesses sins.

Then there is a break in the Psalm when God takes over and directly speaks. This is a special moment. In John 6:44-46 Jesus tells us that God Himself teaches the righteous. God teaches us through the Word, which is inspired by the Holy Spirit of God. God says that we ought not to be as a beast to be harnessed and driven. Instead God calls us to desire to do the will of God, and not to be driven by sorrow or force.

Finally, David speaks about the Fate of the Sinful. He says that the sin-full will have many sorrows. They may seem happy in the moment, but time is their adversary. They will eventually be overcome with grief. In contrast, the righteous will have mercy. Time is their ally, for in time they will be rewarded.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth" Matthew 5:4-5