

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 32

10/30/12

Vs. 1-2 show happiness is the result of knowing God has removed one's sins;
Vs. 3-5a vividly portray the personal price of unconfessed sin;
Vs. 5b-7 describe the great release felt when sin is forgiven;
Vs. 8-11 give God's description of those whose attitude is rewarded.

It is impossible for anyone to question David's authorship of this Psalm, because the Holy Spirit-inspired Apostle Paul quoted Psalm 32:1-2 and had said "David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:" (Romans 4:6-8). Those whose arrogant "scholarship" floats them above the inspired Word of God need to be deflated. Paul's Romans passage is showing that God justified "the ungodly" by faith before and after the Law of Moses, regardless of circumcision. Under the Gospel of Jesus Christ: "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law [*of Moses, jtpII*]" (Romans 3:28). Abraham was justified by his faith (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3) before he was circumcised, Jews and Gentiles can now be justified by faith without circumcision (Romans 4:9-12), thus Moses' Law (which included circumcision) is not effective today. Romans 4 does not include the essentiality of baptism, but Romans 6 does!

Psalm 32:1-2 shows how really complex sin, and its forgiveness, is with the terms:

- 1) "transgression" (violating the constraint of law) must be "forgiven" (taken away);
- 2) "sin" (missing the mark, falling short) must be "covered" (veiled, taken from sight);
- 3) "iniquity" (turned out of proper course, perverted) must not be "imputed" (held responsible);
- 4) "guile" (trickery, fraud, deception) must be omitted from character (as this phrase has been left out of the passage in Romans!).

In Exodus 34:7, the LORD is "forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin," which Jesus Christ now does (2 Timothy 2:19; 1 John 3:5).

In **verses 3-5**, sin does inward, personal damage, so Moses' advice was: "take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 23:32). From Solomon's Proverbs, we glean: "The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion" (Proverbs 28:1); "He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13); "A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones" (Proverbs 17:22). The New Testament includes this principle: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Sinners who still have active consciences should feel like David describes. Counselors, psychologists, parents, pastors, and psychiatrists should not minimize the awfulness of sin.



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Sound psychiatry could not be better described than David does in Psalm 32:5-7, because most issues are the result of spiritual problems, and are solved when a person is reconciled before God.

Verses 8-11 re-emphasize that God expects obedience to be voluntary (and not forced like horses and mules) and will be rewarded, but "many sorrows to the wicked."

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