

The Joy of Forgiveness

Proclamation Wednesday Gathering; Psalm 32:1-11; Week of Sunday, August 12, 2018; Steve Thiel

When we're enslaved to our sin, there is the pain of our body wasting away as the consequence of silence and guilt. True believers, however, know the joy of confessing sin, being forgiven, and experiencing God's on-going protection and instruction in their lives.

I. The Blessing of Forgiven Sin – Read Psalm 32:1-2

- A. In your own words, what do you think is the main idea of verses 1 and 2?

- B. David writes that our transgressions are forgiven and our sin is covered. If God is a just God, how is that even possible? What other passages in the Bible are helpful on this idea?

- C. As you reflect on David's language of being "blessed", do you think the greatest joy in your heart is the fact that you've been forgiven of your sin? What are some of the competing joys?

- D. How do you think you could cultivate a growing joy in the forgiveness of your sin?

II. The Burden of Covered Sin – Read Psalm 32:3-5

- A. What observations do you make about the person in (vv.3-4) who keeps silent in their sin rather than confessing it to the Lord? Have you ever experienced any of these feelings?

- B. Do you think that guilt is a major problem or not enough of a problem in our culture?

- C. How can we know whether our guilt is from God, convicting us of sin, or Satan accusing us?

- D. Do you struggle with guilt and shame? How does the promise in (v.5) help us overcome any struggles that we might have with guilt and shame? How is 1 John 1:8-9 helpful?

III. The Benefits of Confessed Sin – Read Psalm 32:6-11

- A. How is David's exhortation to pray directly linked with the promise of forgiveness (vv.1-5)?

- B. How does the blessing of God's protection and instruction encourage you (vv.7-9)?

- C. David gives us an illustration in (v.9) of being arrogant and stubborn? Where in your life do you struggle the most with pride? Where do you struggle to listen to God's instruction?

- D. What are some practical steps that you can take to grow in being glad in the Lord (v.11)?