

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 48 (November 22-28, 2015)

We will spend this week of Thanksgiving by praising God for His greatest gift of all, the forgiveness of our sins so that we can spend eternity with Him.

Sunday, November 22 (read Psalm 32:1-2)

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. (Psalm 32:1-2)

I printed the entire text today just in case there are some readers who do not open their Bibles when they study these devotions (a practice not recommended by author). The forgiveness of sins comes to us when we accept the sacrificial death of Jesus as full payment and invite Him to live in us in the form of the Holy Spirit. Shouldn't that alone be enough to cause us to praise Him, not only during the week of Thanksgiving, but also every moment of every day for the rest of our lives? True salvation includes repentance, so we should not have a deceitful spirit when the Spirit of God is at work within us. Spend a little time to meditate on what it would be like to stand before a Holy God without Jesus, the One who forgives our sins (see Revelation 20:11-15).

Monday, November 23 (read Psalm 32:3-4)

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. (Psalm 32:3)

I cannot understand why **anyone** would choose to bear the tremendous burden of carrying his/her own sins when our Lord has offered to nail them to the cross. The simple formula is given in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." The word, "confess" means to agree with God! It always involves a willingness to repent of our known sins. In today's text, the psalmist vividly describes the weight of sins that have not been confessed. Can you afford to ignore God's offer to renew your strength so that you can mount up on wings like eagles and run and not grow weary and walk without being faint (see Isaiah 40:31)?

Tuesday, November 24 (Psalm 32:5)

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"—and you forgave the guilt of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

In order to confess (agree with God), we must finally see our sins as God sees them. As long as we think we are not as bad as someone else we know, we will continue to judge others while ignoring our own faults. The world is being taught never to feel guilty. This is another serious politically correct mistake! The reason Christians experience renewed energy is the fact that the burden of their sins is placed on the back of Jesus (see yesterday's devotion). They are much too heavy for us to carry alone! Do you have the joy of knowing that the blood of Jesus has covered all of your sins? Are you ready to trust Him and to follow Him wherever He may lead? Our Lord has paid the penalty for your sins. Do not let His death be in vain!

Wednesday, November 25 (read Psalm 32:6)

Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him. (Psalm 32:6)

Despite the fact that the Bible declares that this devil-controlled world will get worse and worse, many preachers get rich by teaching that everything will be better and better. It is definitely time for the godly Christian to **pray** consistently with total faith in the promises of God, rather than in the promises of man.

The **Day of Grace** when “Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13) could end any minute with the rapture of the true Church of Jesus Christ. Those who are waiting for the call from Heaven can claim the wonderful promise in today’s verse: “When the mighty waters rise” (Tribulation), “they will not reach him.” Have you learned to trust the promises of God? There will soon come a time when God’s Spirit will step aside and let evil men rule during the Tribulation.

Thursday, November 26 (read Psalm 32:7) (Thanksgiving Day)

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. (Psalm 32:7)

When the **Church Age**, also known as the **Day of Grace**, ends with the rapture, true believers will be caught up into Heaven to be with the Lord forever (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). In Heaven, we will have a wonderful “hiding place” while being protected from the Great Tribulation taking place on earth. This is the hope (assurance) of all Christians. In Heaven, we will sing “songs of deliverance” to the One who died so that we could be made righteous (see 2 Corinthians 5:21). Can you wrap your mind around this wonderful promise? Can you give thanks on this Thanksgiving Day for God’s grace? **We** (Christians) have nothing to fear, even as we see the world (non-Christians) depart from Biblical principles. These earthly perils **must** happen to fulfill Scripture, but God has left us here to be salt and light until He comes (see Matthew 5:13-14). Let the godly pray (v. 6) with all their might until the Day comes when all this will be completed.

Friday, November 27 (read Psalm 32:8-9)

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. (Psalm 32:8)

God’s Word tells us everything we need to know to be ready for His return. He gives us this command in Luke 12:40: “You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.” These devotions add to our public ministry, tape ministry, and Bible study ministry to provide you with knowledge to be ready for His appearing. Those who choose to ignore His Word will be “like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you” (v. 9). Few people in America can stand before a holy God and declare, “I never knew that!” We have more resources in this country than are available anywhere else in the world. God’s promises in today’s printed verse are for you to claim unless you refuse to believe and receive them.

Saturday, November 28 (read Psalm 32:10-11)

Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord’s unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in Him. (Psalm 32:10)

We will close this week’s devotions with another wonderful promise found in today’s printed verse. I know that it seems that the wicked are prospering, but as we saw in last week’s study, their prosperity is only temporary. Woes will soon come to the wicked, but God promises to surround with His own unfailing love the man who trusts in Him (v. 10). Doesn’t this make it easier for you to “rejoice in the Lord and be glad” (v. 11)? Doesn’t this enable you to **sing** to Him with joy from a heart that has been made upright by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? I do not believe we have much longer to suffer in this ungodly world before He says, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this” (Revelation 4:1b). Then His prayer from earth will be answered: “Father, I want those you have given Me to be with Me where I am, and to see My glory, the glory You have given Me because You loved Me before the creation of the world” (John 17:24). Hallelujah!