

20:20 Vision Ministries—Devotions by Roger Browning Week 49 (December 1-7, 2019)

We will spend one more week on praise and thanksgiving, this time from Psalm 51. We will see the cycle that takes David from horrible guilt to a teacher of Truth

Sunday, December 1 (read Psalm 51:1-2)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. (Psalm 51:1-2)

King David committed adultery with Bathsheba and then had her husband killed in an attempt to cover up her pregnancy (see 2 Samuel 11). As we saw last week, he agonized under the weight of his **guilt** until he finally confessed his sins to God and found forgiveness (Psalm 32:1-5). Today's text gives more details as David calls upon the unfailing love and great compassion of God to forgive his sins. I'm afraid that the modern believer has little knowledge of the severity of his/her sin. I seldom see anyone call out to the Lord with the urgency I hear in David's confession. Your sins may not be as blatant as David's, but when you have broken one commandment, you have broken them all (James 2:10). Have you appealed to God for mercy? Have you asked Him to blot out your transgressions (v. 1)? Have you experienced the joy of knowing that your sins are washed away so that now you are cleansed (v. 2)? If not, fall on your knees right now and confess your sins to God (see 1 John 1:9)!

Monday, December 2 (read Psalm 51:3-4)

Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge. (Psalm 51:4)

Can you remember what it was like to carry the burden of sins that had not been confessed to God? Can you relate to David when he says, "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me" (v. 3)? The guilt of sins that have not been forgiven weighs us down unless we allow Him to cleanse us and make us whole again. Because "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23a), God is certainly justified when He judges and His Word is proven right (v. 4b). That's why we must plead with Him for mercy and cleansing (v. 1-2), because we have sinned against Him alone (v. 4a). How long has it been since you thanked Him for going to Calvary so that the **penalty** for your sins could be paid in full? Maybe you should do it now! Examine yourself before God, not in light of what others are doing or in light of how you are judged by humans. God, alone, is your judge!

Tuesday, December 3 (read Psalm 51:5-6)

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (Psalm 51:5)

Our politically correct society believes that mankind is, by nature, basically good and, if we are nice to each other, everything will be peaceful. That incorrect worldview is leading us toward the one-world global government that has been Satan's plan from the very beginning (see Genesis 11:1-9). In today's printed verse, David acknowledges the true teaching of the Bible. The Biblical worldview is as follows: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one" (Romans 3:10b-12). That's why Jesus, the Perfect One, had to sacrifice His life for the rest of us sinners. He is the Truth (John 14:6) and He is our Wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30)! Praise His Name today!

Wednesday, December 4 (read Psalm 51:7-9)

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:7)

Those of you who know and love the old hymns are probably humming the song, "Whiter Than Snow," based on today's printed verse. Hyssop is a member of the mint family and was used in some spiritual rituals since it was thought to have medicinal value. Just like the oil that was used in the New Testament (James 5:14), the healing power came from God and not from the bush or the liquid. The truth is that salvation brings with it a cleansing from our sins so that we can be absolutely pure in His eyes (see Ephesians 1:4). It also brings **joy** and **gladness** within the new believer (v. 7-8). In answer to David's request in v. 9, God removes our sins "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12a) and casts "all our iniquities into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19b). In view of this, should any of us have difficulty in giving praise and thanksgiving to Him?

Thursday, December 5 (read Psalm 51:10-12)

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Psalm 51:12)

Ezekiel 36:26-27 previews New Testament salvation by saying, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." God's Word that was given to the prophet Ezekiel several hundred years later, answers David's prayer recorded in today's text. When a Christian sins, he does not **lose** his salvation since it is God's gift to him. What he **does** lose, however, is the **joy** of his salvation until he confesses his sin to God (v. 12). We can quench (grieve) the Holy Spirit (see Ephesians 4:30), but we can never drive Him out of our presence. Maybe you, like King David, need to turn from your known sin so that God can restore your joy!

Friday, December 6 (read Psalm 51:13-15)

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. (Psalm 51:13)

Those who have truly received the new birth experience will have a desire to tell others about salvation in Christ Jesus (v. 13). No one can tell the story better than the one who has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. This born again experience will also put depth in the songs we sing. Many singers are talented, but only those who have received God's gift of salvation can sing for the glory of God (v. 14). Likewise, praise will be superficial to those who have never felt the joy of knowing that all his sins are under the blood of Jesus (v. 15). Have you come to Jesus with the humility that David writes about in the Psalm?

Saturday, December 7 (read Psalm 51:16-19)

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. (Psalm 51:17)

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1st Samuel 16:7b). With this great verse, God summarizes today's text. The size of the sacrifice does not matter nearly as much as the motive behind the gift (v. 16-17). When our heart is broken because of our sins and we are restored to a righteous position, we cannot help but praise God and give willingly to His work. Someday soon, the Lord will restore Jerusalem and make His throne there for 1000 years (v. 18-19). At that time, the Jews will finally experience the peace that they have longed for throughout their lives.