

COMING CLEAN

CMBC March 30, 2014

Psalm 32:1 – 11

It is said that Oswald Chambers could scarcely read the first 3 verses of this Psalm without filling his eyes with tears.

This may seem like old stuff to us, but wouldn't you agree that the two major barriers to a victorious Christian life is that people find it hard to admit to sin and find it hard to forgive others.

Well, let me ask you: Have you been upset with anyone in the past couple of weeks?

Let me ask about you: Do you at times still sin? When have you last bowed before God, repented and confessed?

This is a big deal. This is the heart of the Gospel.

1. FREE FROM SINS BURDEN

a. Blessed to be forgiven

Vs.1a Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,

- i. "Forgiven" here means "lifted off"
- ii. The charges are cancelled.

b. The sin is covered by God

Vs. 1b Blessed is he ... whose sins are covered."

- i. Covered by the blood of Jesus who took our penalty and gave us eternal life.
- ii. Not just put out of sight or even "the slate is wiped clean".
- iii. It is like the saying we have in referring to a bill to pay, "it is all covered". It is all taken care of.
- iv. ILL. Little girl who stole a book at the bookstore. She came to confess. The owner suggest she pay 3 times what it was worth, way beyond her ability to pay, but she agreed that would be fair. Then the owner took the money out of his own wallet and gave it to the girl to keep.

But there is more!

c. God starts over with me

Vs 2 Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him

- i. In court when you are found guilty and serve your time, you still have a record.
- ii. God does not keep a record.

- iii. It is as if it never happened. No record of it.
 - iv. Because God gives you **His** righteousness
 - v. **Romans 3:21 – 22** But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. [22] This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.
 - vi. You have a whole new start.
- d. A freedom of openness before God
- i. To us that seems like a licence to sin, but notice the rest of that verse.
VS 2 Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.
 - ii. There isn't a deceitful motive behind the confession or the forgiveness
 - iii. He will still sin, but his heart commitment not to sin and when he does to confess it and make it right.
 - iv. There is an openness before God that listens to God prompting about sin and making it right.

2. THE HEAVINESS OF HIDING

- a. David has discovered that hiding is worse than the sin
 - i. The reality is that we will sin
 - ii. The problem comes when we hide it and “keep silent”
 - iii. Hiding from God and making excuses for our sin
 - iv. Hiding it from people whom we have offended.
 - v. Becoming defensive or even turning it around and being critical of others
- b. The consequences of not coming clean
 - [3] When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.**
 - [4] For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**
 - i. Have you experienced that?
 - ii. Physical consequences
 - iii. Emotional groanings
 - iv. Weariness
 - v. Break down of relationships with God and with people, because we don't want to face the truth.

3. ACKNOWLEDGING MY SIN

[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.

Do you notice what David was doing here? He was doing his own covering up, rather than to let God cover up the sin on His terms. But then David decides to COME CLEAN.

- a. Confession and honesty
 - i. What a mercy that we can go to God, confess our sin and be open and honest with God
 - ii. Jesus said to Peter, Luke 22:32 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. [32] But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."
- b. What took so long?
 - i. David says, "Then you forgave the guilt of my sin."
 - ii. Why wouldn't we go to God and confess our sin? Maybe because we don't trust God.
 - iii. God is ready to forgive and keep no record
 - iv. [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.
[7] You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

4. LEARNING TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY

- a. Here is God promise of His guidance to help us live differently.
 - i. [8] I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.
 - ii. Teach, counsel, watch
 - iii. We can change.
 - iv. God will show us how to live.
- b. Then God adds something that is key to understand.
Getting God's perspective
[9] Do not 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.
 - i. Even a good horse can't understand the mind and heart of the rider. They need someone to guide them.
 - ii. God will help us, but we have to make a decision and take action.

- iii. God wants us to get His mind and heart from the teaching He gives us so that we can make the right decisions.
- c. Singing the song of freedom
Is it any wonder that David would conclude...
- [11] Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!**
- i. Oswald Chambers' eyes filled with tears when he read this Psalm.
 - ii. We never will if we don't understand the total destruction of sin, even the "smallest" and the incredible love and mercy of God to forgive and totally wipe the record of our sin.