

Slide content for Psalm 32 “Blessed Confession”

Outline:

1) Blessing (32:1-2)

2) Honesty (32:3-5)

Prov 28:13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Dane Ortlund, “Forgiveness does not come to the self-justifying. It come only to the contrite, the honest. . . . One must take off the mask. Stop the pretense. Humble oneself before the Lord with honest transparency. There is inner health that is nurtured through open confession of one’s sins. When we stuff down our guilt, it festers within us. . . . It feels like a death to open up in honesty about our failings. But it is actually the pathway to life and sanity.” (*In the Lord I Take Refuge*, 88-89)

3) Application (32:6-7)

Paul Tournier, “A man makes himself hard and inflexible in order to escape his guiltiness. The strange paradox present on every page of the Gospels and which we can verify any day, is that it is not guilt which is the obstacle to grace, as moralism supposes. On the contrary, it is the repression of guilt, self-justification, genuine self-righteousness and smugness which is the obstacle.”

Isaiah 55:6-7 "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

4) Wisdom (32:8-10)

Love Constraining to Obedience by William Cowper

“To see the law by Christ fulfilled
And hear His pardoning voice,
Changes a slave into a child,
And duty into choice.”

Peter Craigie, “In the words of Saint Augustine, ‘the beginning of knowledge is to know oneself to be a sinner’. Indeed, it is recorded that Psalm 32 was Augustine's favorite psalm, that he read it frequently, and that before he died, he **had its words inscribed on the wall by his sickbed**, to be both exercised and comforted by them.

...It is a fundamental psalm, illustrating powerfully **the prerequisite of spiritual health**, namely **a self-conscious awareness of one’s sinful life and of the necessity of acting upon that awareness and confession before God**. And further the psalmist establishes...**that justification and forgiveness for mankind are not achieved on the basis of law, but on the basis of the divine grace**, which flowed in response to the faith of the one who confessed and sought forgiveness (Rom 4:6-9). The psalm is thus central to the gospel and points out the path of true happiness to sinners aware of their need for forgiveness.”

5) Joy (32:11)