

# Psalm 51

# Church notices

- **Potluck supper: Prayer and medication to follow.**
- **Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.**
- **Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.**
- **Today's Sermon: HOW MUCH CAN A MAN DRINK? with hymns from a full choir.**

# Psalm 51

- **This Psalm is the brightest gem in the whole book, and contains instruction so large, and doctrine so precious, that the tongue of angels could not do justice to the full development. Victorinus Strigelius**
- **This Psalm is often called THE SINNER'S GUIDE.**
- **Luther says, "There is no other Psalm which is oftener sung or prayed in the church."**
- **The first Psalm to mention the Holy Spirit**

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.

<sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

<sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity

10  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

13  
so that sinners will turn back to you.

14  
you who are God my Saviour,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

15  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

16  
it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

17  
a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.

# Sin

- **This Psalm is about sin and how we deal with it.**
- **David and Bathsheba**
- **We can have 2 responses to acknowledging sin in our lives:**
  - 1. Allow it to be a barrier between us and God**
  - 2. Repent!**

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash away all  
and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I know  
and my sin is always before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.

<sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
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wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

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a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.

**1 Have**

**according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.**

**2 Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

**3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.**

**4 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.**

**5 Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

**6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

**7 Cleanse me  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**8 Let me hear  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

**9 Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity**

**10**

**and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**11**

**or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

**12**

**and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

**13**

**so that sinners will turn back to you.**

**14**

**God,**

**you who are God my Saviour,  
and my tongue will sing of your  
righteousness.**

**15**

**and my mouth will declare your praise.**

**16**

**bring it;**

**you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

**17**

**a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.**



# How bad can you get?

- Do you think there is a limit to God's forgiveness?
- David committed adultery with a women, murdered her husband then covered up the whole thing by lying
- “The Lord also has put away your sin” ([2 Samuel 12:7-15](#)).
- Outrageous? You don't just pass over adultery and murder and lying. Righteous judges don't do that.



# Outrageous!

**The outrage that we feel when God seems to simply pass over David's sin would be good outrage if God were simply sweeping David's sin under the rug. He is not. God sees from the time of David down the centuries to the death of his Son, Jesus Christ, who would die in David's place, so that David's faith in God's mercy and God's future redeeming work unites David with Christ. And in God's all-knowing mind, David's sins are counted as Christ's sins and Christ's righteousness is counted as his righteousness, and God justly passes over David's sin. The death of the Son of God is outrageous enough, and the glory of God that it upholds is great enough, that God is vindicated in passing over David's adultery and murder and lying. (John Piper)**

## Romans 3:22-26

**For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

# A pattern for confession

- 1. *He confesses his sin and asks to be judged (v.3-5)***
- 2. *He prays for the forgiveness of his sin (v. 1, 2, 9)***
- 3. *He prays to be made clean (v. 2, 7, 10) - hyssop***
- 4. *He prays for grace to sin no longer(v. 10, 12).***
- 5. *He prays to receive joy and power from the Holy Spirit (v. 8,11, 12)***
- 6. *He prays for freedom to access and worship God (v. 15).***
- 7. *He promises to serve others (v. 13)***
- 8. *He promises to worship God (v. 14, 15)***
- 9. *He prays for the world (v. 18)***

**51:7** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

- **Used in ceremonial cleansing; (Leviticus 14:1-7 ; Numbers 19:1-19)**
- **Of a sinner from the guilt of sin - the blood;**
- **Of a saint from the defilement of sin - the water;**
- **Used during the Passover to put the blood of the passover lamb over the doorposts of Israel's homes**
- **Used to give Jesus a drink on the cross! (John 19:28-30)**

# A pattern for confession

1. *He confesses his sin and asks to be judged (v.3-5)*
2. *He prays for the forgiveness of his sin (v. 1, 2, 7, 9)*
3. *He prays to be made clean (v. 2, 7, 10) - hyssop*
4. *He prays for his conscience (v. 8, 12)*
5. *He prays for grace to sin no longer(v. 10, 11, 14).*
6. *He prays to receive joy and power from the Holy Spirit (v. 11, 12)*
7. *He prays for freedom to access and worship God (v. 15).*
8. *He promises to serve others (v. 13)*
9. *He promises to worship God (v. 14, 15)*
10. *He prays for the world (v. 18)*

**Confession is nothing without  
repentance**

- Confession is emptying out your bin**
- Repentance is walking away from it**

**Strepho - turn 180° - picture of a city**

**Walking towards the Sun (no shadow)**

**Sacrifice is not what is required - no token ceremonies  
- we need to repent and identify with the ultimate  
sacrifice - Jesus**

# Redemption

**David was known as one of the greatest kings of Israel**

**Reigned for 40 years**

**Is mentioned in the Faith Hall of Fame (Heb 11)**

**Is an ancestor of Jesus. (Jesus was referred to as Son of David)**

**Wrote about 80 of the Psalms**

**God called David a man after His own heart (Acts 13:22)**