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STUDIES IN PSALMS HOW TO DEAL WITH SIN

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Psalms 51 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy

presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

Sin is an eternal problem and if not dealt with properly results in eternal ruin.

Sin is a patent fact. It's reality

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does not need to be argued. Sin is a fact of experience, observation, and revelation. Sin is something I feel in my own soul; something I see in others, even in my best friends and loved ones; and something revealed in the Bible. Sin is something the policeman pursues, the physician prescribes for, conscience confesses it, God controls it, and nobody owns it. People treat sin like some people treat their trashy relatives - they ignore it and deny it.

Sin may be defined, but it cannot be explained. To explain sin is to explain it away. How the thing got started in the universe is a profound mystery. Sin does not belong here. Sin is a parasite, an interloper, an outlaw cell in the moral system.

Sin is a cheat, a deceiver, and a destroyer. It promises pleasure and pays off in pain. It promises a high life and pays off in death. Every sin is committed for profit. We see this in the first sin: Eve thought she would be profited by eating the forbidden fruit. But she was cheated. In doing wrong man never gets what he expected to get by doing wrong, or if he seems to get what he expected, he got something else that takes the joy out of what he got. There is some mementary pleasure in sin, but in the end there is death in the cup. Sin is a terrible blunder.

Sin is dangerous beyond expression and description. Sin is rebellion against a just and holy God and his law cries for just retribution. Sin is against God; crime is against human society.

Sin is universal. All have sinned. There are many queenly women, but no sinless women. There are many moral men in our sight, but no sinless men in God's sight. All are not vicious, but all are sinners.

Every man who is not past feeling feels that he is a sinner. And wherever there is a sense of sin there is some method of atonement. Man is a religious animal. Everybody has a religion because everybody has a sense or feeling of guilt to some degree. And this feeling of guilt has produced many kinds of religion, because religion is an effort to escape guilty feelings. This is true of atheism as well as of other religions. It is the feeling of guilt that makes a man wish there were no God. In atheism the wish has been the father to the thought. The man begins by wishing there were no God and ends by thinking there is none. No person by nature is an atheist. An atheist is one who has

tampered with his conscience until he believes there is no God.

Why does the heathen mother in India throw her newborn baby to the crocodiles? It is because she has a sense of God and a feeling of guilt and does this to atone for her sins. This is why the Roman Catholic goes to the confessional. He has a guilty feeling and goes to his priest and makes confession to get rid of guilty feeling. Why does the child of God pray and confess his sins to God? Is it not in hope of getting rid of guilty feelings? This is the explanation of conscience money. Atheism is an effort to get rid of guilty feelings. Of course if a person can persuade himself to believe there is no God he can have an easy feeling, so far as guilt is concerned.

In this 51st Psalm David confesses his sins, pleads God's mercy and forgiveness, and gets rid of his guilty feelings, and is happy again.

1. He takes the right attitude towards his sin. After David committed his terrible sin with Bathsheba he went about a year trying to forget it and tried to be happy. But in spite of all his efforts he was a miserable man. He wept so much that his health was broken. He cried for forgiveness. Have mercy upon me, O God. He did not beg for justice but for mercy. He was penitent. He did not deny or condone his sin but repented of it. A saved man does not live sinless, but he does have the right attitude towards God about his sin. Here is a vital matter. What is our attitude towards our sin? Right attitude is necessary to repentance. In repentance sins are perceived, abhorred, and abandoned in heart and desire. Repentance and faith are the two sides of an experience of grace; like the two sides of a coin. In repentance we are occupied with self and sin; in faith we are occupied with Him - Christ. In repentance sin is black; in faith Christ is precious. In repentance the sinner sees himself as a sinner; in faith he sees Christ as Saviour. In repentance the sinner steps out of himself, gives up all hope in what he can do; in faith he steps into Christ and hopes in what Christ has done.

2. David confesses his sins. He uses three words in describing his sin. One word means transgression. I John 3:4 **Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.** This is the aspect of rebellion. Sin is a revolutionary war against the authority of God. It is an effort to dethrone God. Another word he uses means to miss the mark.

Sin is failure to hit the mark, failure to reach the goal, failure to do what man was created for, the glory of God. Rom. 3:23 **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.** The other word he employs is the word iniquity. This word means that which is twisted or bent, something crooked. When we wish to describe a man as mean, we say he is crooked. Morally, man is a twisted and warped creature. His moral make up is crooked in the sight of God. In this prayer of Davids he takes all the blame upon himself. He does not blame Bathsheba; he does not blame the circumstances that brought them together. He sees no sinner but himself.

A favorite way with many in getting rid of guilt is to put the blame on someone else, pass the buck. Adam put the blame on God and Eve. Gen. 3:12 **And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.** Jer. 31:29-30 **In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge. But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge.**

forgiveness for this sin. He prays for purity. He longs for deliverance from the very presence of sin. Our conduct will not be perfect until our heart is pure and clean. Here is a prayer I believe all of God's people continually make, and the answer is a long time coming. It will not come in this present life. But it will be answered in the world to come. Those who are hungry and thirsting after righteousness shall be filled.

David prays for joy, the joy of salvation. This prayer was answered and he became a happy person. But this prayer for joy will not be completely answered until Christ comes and we awake in his likeness.

David makes a vow. Psm. 51:12-13 **Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.**

No Christian can be an evangelist for Christ while he is working for Satan. When the hands are busy doing evil the mouth will be shut so far as witnessing for Christ is concerned.

The Christian is not ruined by living in the world, but by the world living in him.