

SERMON NOTES

October 6-7, 2018

Forgiveness (Part 2)

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The path to forgiveness begins with an appeal for God's mercy (Ps. 51:1a)

The path to forgiveness is paved by God's character (Ps. 51:1b)

The path to forgiveness is a heart-felt desire for a fresh start (Ps. 51:1c-2)

The path to forgiveness causes me to own my sin (Ps. 51:3)

Psalm 51:3

For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

The path to forgiveness acknowledges that all sin is against God (Ps. 51:4a)

Psalm 51:4

Against you, you only, have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you may be justified in your words

and blameless in your judgment.

The path to forgiveness accepts the consequences of sin (Ps. 51:4b)

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

1 Timothy 5:24

The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later.

2 Samuel 12:13-23

David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die." Then Nathan went to his house.

And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

The path to forgiveness is a desire for cleansing (Ps 51:5-7).

Psalm 51:5-6

*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

*Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.*

Psalm 51:1-2

*Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.*

*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!*

Psalm 51:7-9

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

*Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.*

*Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.*

The path of forgiveness includes the desire for renewed strength to obey (Ps. 51:10-12)

Psalm 51:10-12

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

The path of forgiveness leads to thanksgiving (Ps. 51:13-15).

Psalm 51:13-15

*Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.*

*Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.*

*O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.*

Sin seals the lips of testimony.

The path of forgiveness begins with godly sorrow (Ps. 51:16-17).

Psalm 51:16-19

*For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.*

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

*Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.*