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Psalm 32 – Teaches the important truth that God is not counting sin toward us

- This is a *Maschil*, a teaching psalm, designed to teach us moral lessons

A Psalm of David. A Contemplation. ["Maschil"] 1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

- Four categories of wrongful behavior:
 - *Transgressions* = violations of God's commandments.
 - *Sin*. = what we have failed to do.
 - *Iniquities* = warped or perverted things
 - *Guile* = deceit and craftiness
- His transgressions were *forgiven* and this word means to be *sent away*. This reminds us of the ceremony of the scapegoat.
- David also speaks of sins being *covered*: that sins would be removed from God's sight.
- Next, David speaks about *imputation*. This means to have something *credited to your account* or *taken off your account*. Paul teaches us in Romans 4 that God is imputing to us righteousness of Christ:
 - [Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; but for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead... (Rom. 4:20-24)

3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

- The Bible knew that sin and emotional disturbance affect the physical body.
- David then calls for a “selah” pause so that we will reflect. What is a selah?

5 I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah. 6 For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him.

- In the Bible, to confess means to say the same thing as another person does.

7 You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah

- What a comforting truth –the One who ought to have been our Judge is now our Shelter.

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. 9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.”

- God now begins to speak to David and to us! God doesn’t want our Christian life to be like that of a “horse or a mule.”
 - God is looking for understanding on our part.
 - Animals may need a bit and bridle.
 - We can have a tendency also to bite and snap as they do.

10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. 11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

- The modern, mystical mindset would say that we receive good things because of the law of “karma,” but as Christians we know that God is personal.
- Those who are upright can be glad and rejoice because His mercy will surround us.
- He concludes with a call to praise Him, because He **will** surround you with favor.

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