

## Psalms 6, 32

**Psalms 32:7 You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.**

There are 7 Penitential Psalms or Psalms that express a turning away from sin in order to return to God. Of the 7, David wrote at least 5 including the two we will look at today.

**Psalms 6:** The specific circumstance of the Psalms is not mentioned but the troubles encountered by David at the time of the writing are clear. David is ill even to the point of the possibility of death. We see this in verse 2, “Have mercy on me O Lord, for I am weak; O Lord, heal me for my bones are troubled.” Then, in verses 4 and 5, “Return O Lord, deliver me! Oh save me for your mercies’ sake! For in death there is no remembrance of you; In the grave, who will give you thanks?”

With the illness is the belief that David’s sin has been responsible for his troubles. “Do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure.” We know that not all illness can be linked to specific sin but this does not mean that some illness shouldn’t be seen as caused by specific personal sin. In some cases this linkage is obvious and inevitable, take, for instance, the example of STD’s. We should also be aware that God can, at His discretion, grant and remove the blessing of good health. If

you are healthy this does not mean that you are without sin and if you are ill it does not mean that your sin is to blame. We must learn to listen to the Spirit and be aware of how God might be seeking to speak to us through the circumstances of our lives. David’s weepings were a time in which he would have been open to the Spirit’s voice and to a spiritual interpretation of his troubles.

The other element in David’s prayer is the presence and sentiment of those who wish him ill. David even sees his healing as a triumph over these enemies.

**Psalms 32:** This Psalm of repentance begins and ends with joy. It is a story song and David chooses to begin this story with the ending rather than the beginning. This is very effective as it raises the questions of “how?” or “why?”

David begins, “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered...” Notice the terms used to describe both sin and pardon: transgression-rebellion against rightful authority, sin – missing the mark, iniquity- crookedness, and deceit – insincerity and cunning. For pardon there is forgiven- taking away as of a burden lifted, covered – hidden from God’s sight, not imputed – a cancelled debt.

To answer the questions of “how?” and “why?” David remembers the darkness. As he clung to his sin his bones rotted, he

groaned all day long, he felt God’s hand as a heavy burden, and he felt that his energy for life was waning. But he turned to God and confessed his sin. He was transparent with God and kept nothing under wraps. He experienced the revitalizing and healing powers of God’s forgiveness.

The next paragraph is a testimony of grace and confidence. David is sure that the godly have already lived through his experience. Even in sin and trouble we have a God who can be found. David found in Him a hiding place, a presence who brought with Him safety and song.

David shares his lesson in the form of a teaching proverb, “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 to you.” The horse and mule have to be controlled in order to be useful. If we will hear and apply David’s proverb then we will come near to God and reject our sin in favor of His blessing.

David concludes with the glory of God’s blessing. “Be glad in the Lord and rejoice you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!”