

acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.” (Vv.3,4)

Not only did David make confession of his sins with sincere sorrow, but he also looked to the Savior in faith for forgiveness and salvation. While our Scripture text does not speak of this, yet David tells us of it in Psalm 51, where he says to the LORD, “Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.” (Vv.1,2,7-9) David appeals to God’s undeserved love and throws himself upon the great mercies of Lord, trusting in God’s forgiveness that would be worked out for Him through the promised Savior. David knew by faith that this promised One would come and wash away the guilt of all his sins through the shedding of His precious blood in atonement for all the sins of the world.

While the promised Savior Jesus Christ would not be coming to carry out this work of redemption for some 1,000 years, nevertheless after David made confession of his sins with a penitent and believing heart, the prophet Nathan declared these words of absolution to him, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.” (V.13) You will notice that Nathan didn’t tell David that at some future time God would be taking away his sins nor did he speak of God’s forgiveness being conditional based upon something David would still need to say or do. No. Nathan comforts David with the wonderful good news that God’s forgiveness of his sins was already an accomplished fact and that this forgiveness was given to him without any condition attached to it. As the Old Testament believer and the New Testament believer have looked to the Savior Jesus and His redemptive work in faith, they have enjoyed the wondrous gift of forgiveness full and free.

David speaks of the great joy he experienced in knowing this when in Psalm 32 he declared, “Blessed (or ‘happy’) is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.” (Vv.1,2) What a joyous thing it is for us to hear a fellow Christian pronounce God’s forgiveness upon us, for in this we know and confidently believe God has in truth already taken away the guilt of all our sins and that we are able to stand before God as His children free from blame and with souls unhurt by sin.

Thanks be to God for working penitent and believing hearts in us through His Word so that we might know the joy of our salvation. May God help us to be like Nathan in helping others to know the joy of their salvation through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.