

## The Blessed Man

Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1988

### Psalm 32:1-2

*“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”*

David, King of Judah, the sweet Psalmist of Israel (and twice in the Word of God) is called, *“A man after God’s own heart* wrote in Psalms 32:1 and 2, *“Blessed is the man whose transgression is forgiven. Blessed is the man whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity and in whose spirit there is no guile.”* That is what David said.

Paul, the Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bond-slave of Jesus Christ called to be an apostle, separated unto the Gospel, writing under Divine inspiration repeats these words in the Book of Romans Chapter 4; *“Blessed are they whose iniquities are all forgiven. Blessed are they whose sins are covered and blessed is the man to whom God will not charge sin.”* That is my subject today: **“BLESSED IS THE MAN.”**

Neither David, nor Paul denies the fact that we are sinners. They weren’t denying our sins; they were rather acknowledging the truth that we are sinners. *“We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* We have transgressions and we have iniquities. The Scripture says, *“There is none that doeth good and sinneth not. There is not a just man upon the earth that doeth good and sinneth not.”*

David said in Psalm 51, *“My sins are ever before me.”* We are constantly reminded that we are sinners. Again, he said, *“If Thou Lord shouldest mark iniquity, who shall stand?”* John wrote, *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”* Again he says, *“If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar and His Word is not in us.”*

So, David and Paul are not denying the fact that we are sinners and they are not excusing sin. They are not claiming to live above sin. Neither of these men claimed to live above sin. Paul himself said, *“The things that I would do; I do them not, and the things I would not do, I do. O wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me from this body of death?”*

Neither of these men denies the fact that we are sinners, nor do they excuse sin. They do not claim to live above sin but rather, what they are doing is this; they are rejoicing in the forgiveness of sin. They are rejoicing in the covering of sin, and they are rejoicing in the putting away of sin.

A moment ago, I quoted a Scripture. David said; *“When Thou Lord shoudest mark iniquity, who shall stand?”* What is the next verse? The next verse says, *“But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared.”* Here is what these men are saying, *“Blessed, (happy, twice happy), is the man whose sins are all forgiven. Blessed, (happy) is the man whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sins are so put away that even God will not charge him with iniquity.”*

Paul said in Romans 8, *“Who can lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth.”* Again, he says, *“Therefore, now, there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus.”* So, *“Blessed, happy, (twice happy), is the man whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom God will not charge or impute iniquity.”*

Let me address this subject; this ought to be good news to honest people, real people who are listening to this program. Let me address my subject by asking five questions. That will make up the outline for my message today. I have five questions that I am going to ask. I am going to answer these five questions from the Word of God. These I believe, are five great, monumental questions having to do with that which concerns you, and that which concerns me.

Here is the first question: What would it mean to you to know that every sin of yours was forgiven? I’m talking about every sin of word, of thought, of deed and imagination. I’m talking about every sin past, present and future. What would it mean to you to have every sin of omission, commission, every great sin, and what we call, “small sin” forgiven? What would it mean to you to know that every sin, totally would be eradicated, totally forgiven, blotted out, covered over, and cast into the depths of the sea to be remembered no more? Just what would that mean to you?

I will tell you this; this is no dream. This is a reality to those who are in Christ Jesus. This is a blessing, that all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ enjoy it to the fullest. Their sins are blotted out. God says, *“I have cast them into the depths of the sea.”* God says, *“I have cast them behind My back.”* God says, *“I have forgiven them and I will remember them no more.”* That is why Christ came to the earth. That is why He left Heaven’s glory and came to this earth and robed Himself in human flesh. He did it to put away our sins.

When the angel announced His birth to Joseph, He said, *“Mary is with child and she will bring forth a Son and thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.”* That is why He came to the earth, to save His people from their sins. This is

the fulfillment of the promise made to the prophet Isaiah when God said, *“A virgin shall conceive and bring forth a child, and you shall call His name Immanuel,”* (God with us). That is why He came to earth.

Paul said, *“This is a faithful saying and is worthy of all acceptance that Jesus Christ is come into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the chief.”* He came to redeem sinners, to put away sin. He came to put away the sins of His people. That is why He came to the earth.

That is why Jesus Christ was made flesh. That is why He took on Himself the form of a servant, made in the likeness of sinful flesh, that He might put away our sins. Galatians 4 says, *“In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them who were born under the law, that we might receive the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Romans 5:19 says, *“By this one man’s obedience many were made righteous.”* That is why He came to the earth and that is why He was born under the law, made under the law. That is why He assumed our flesh.

That is why He was crucified. Listen to these verses: *“He put away sin, once in the end of the age; He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”* Whose sin did He put away? He put away the sins of all who believe on Him. He put them away sufficiently, and He put them away effectually. He put them away permanently. *“He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”*

John wrote, *“The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanseth us from all sin,”* not from some of our sins or most of our sins, or the greater part of our sins: *“The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanseth us from all sin, (past, present and future).”*

He cleanseth us from every sin. I’m talking about every sin in word, thought, deed, or imagination, every sin. I’m talking about the sin of the mind, the heart, the will and every sin. *“He was made sin for us who knew no sin.”* He knew no sin, *“That we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”*

So, I say to you; what would it mean to you personally to know that every sin inwardly, outwardly were remembered no more?” What would it mean to you that every word, thought or deed, every sin, past, present and future would be forgotten? What would it mean to you if every sin of which you are associated, every sin from you, of you, about you and in you were forgiven? What if every transgression, every iniquity was put away, blotted out, and covered over, finally to be remembered no more?

That is what every believer in Jesus Christ experiences and enjoys. That is what the Word of God says. Nothing needs to be added to what He is doing. *“He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”*

Learn two words, my friend, and learn the Gospel. One word is substitution. Christ is our Substitute. *“He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was laid on Him and by His stripes we are healed.”* That is substitution; He died in the stead of sinners. He died as a Substitute. He died in the place of. He died for His people. He bore all the judgment and wrath of God upon our sins. *“He was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”*

The second word is satisfaction. What Christ attempted, Christ accomplished. What Christ came to do, Christ did. *“The pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hands. He shall not fail.”* He came to put away sin and He put sin away. He went back to glory and *“Sat down at the right hand of God.”* Now, this is something that you need to learn.

In the Old Testament tabernacle, there were no chairs. There were no benches because the priest, who went about the service of the sacrifices in the tabernacle, never sat down. They never sat down because their work was never finished. Their sacrifices couldn't put away sin, *“But this man, Jesus Christ, after He had offered one sacrifice for sin, forever, sat down at the right hand of God, having perfectly sanctified all for whom He died.”* Isn't that good news?

All right, here is the second question. What would it mean to you to know that the Holy, Eternal, Living God is reconciled to you. He, *“Dwells in a light to which no man can approach?”* He is incomprehensible, unapproachable, the invisible God, the God of perfect Holiness, purity and truth. What would that mean to you to know that He is totally reconciled to you?

Do you have peace with God? Are you at peace with God? I'm not talking about hollering, *“Peace, peace, when there is no peace.”* I'm not talking about somebody saying, *“Well, I made my peace with God.”* You will never make your peace with God. There is no way you can make peace with God, but Christ can and did. *“He made peace for us through the blood of His cross.”* He is the only One who can please God. He said, *“This is My Son in whom I am well pleased.”*

He is the only One who can satisfy God's Law and God's Justice and God's Righteousness. How would you like to have with that Holy God, perfect, perfect peace?

How would you like to have all wrath, all judgment, and all condemnation and have it all gone? God is not angry. God is reconciled.

This is the blessing that every person enjoys who is in Christ, who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, *“Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God.”* Being justified, declared righteous, by faith in Christ, we have peace with God. I’m not saying, going to have someday, might have, could have, or even perhaps have someday. *“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

That is what Paul wrote in Second Corinthians 5. *“God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.”* David is saying here, happy is the man to whom God will not charge sin with whom God is at perfect peace. Happy is that man!

David is the very one, now listen to me; David is the very one who declares *“God is angry with the wicked every day.”* David wrote that, *“God is angry with the wicked.”* David is the one who wrote, *“God hateth the workers of iniquity.”* The Apostle Paul is the one who talks about *“Knowing the terror of the Lord.”*

These very men talk about peace. They talk about reconciliation and that is the good news of the Gospel. God has finally and completely reconciled His Judgment and His wrath and it fell on Christ. It fell on Christ, our Representative; it fell on Christ, our Substitute.

Paul wrote in Galatians *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us. He suffered the Just for the unjust that He might bring us to God,”* to a God who is reconciled, to our God who is at peace. I will tell you this; there is no way that we are coming into His presence unless He is reconciled, unless He is at peace.

Let’s learn two more words and you will understand what this peace with God is and how it comes about. One word is atonement. All the way through the Old Testament, we hear about the atonement. *“I have given you the blood upon the altar to make atonement for your soul.”* In Romans, the Word of God says; *“By Christ we have now received the atonement.”*

Somebody said this and I think it is pretty good, the word atonement means “at one ment.” The two who were divided by sin, and the two who were separated by sin, God who was angry, is now at “one.” Christ has provided a perfect “at one ment,” a perfect atonement.

The other word is reconciliation. *“Beloved, now are we sons of God.”* God is reconciled to us. That is when Paul comes along and says, *“Now be you reconciled with God.”* Christ has performed that work of reconciliation. He has put away the cause of anger, the cause of judgment, the cause of the curse, the cause of condemnation, which is sin. It is gone. God is not angry.

The Spirit of God works that work of reconciliation in our hearts so that we become one with God. *“We have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry; Abba Father. The Spirit of God Himself beareth witness with our spirits that we are children of God.”*

I’m not through; there is a lot of good news in this Book. This is the third question. What would it mean to you to have a new nature and a new heart inclined to God? This would make worship not a duty, but a delight. Wouldn’t that be something?

We have been so inclined to the flesh, inclined to our selfish ways, and inclined to our sins. How wonderful it will be to have a nature that is just so inclined to holiness, inclined to truth and inclined to God, which makes worship not a duty, but a delight. How wonderful it will be for our new nature to bring us into the very mysteries of God and eternal truth and to bring us into an understanding of the very mysteries of God, the ways of God and the will of God.

This new nature, this new heart, enjoys real peace in Christ. This new heart finds rest in the midst of all the trouble, sorrow, and heartache that this world brings. We can really be at rest in Him. My Lord said, *“My peace I give unto you.”* Again He said, *“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee.”*

How would you like to have a new heart and a new nature, which can say, *“I know My Redeemer lives? I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I committed to Him against that day.”* John said, *“We know that we have passed from death unto life.”* Who can say with David, *“The Lord is My shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters; He restoreth my soul.”*

*“He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through a valley of a shadow of death; I will fear no evil for Thou art with me. Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou annointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.”*

I heard a story one time about a famous actor, a famous orator who was attending a banquet. There was an old silver-haired preacher at the banquet at the speaker's platform table. By the way of an invocation, he got up and recited the 23rd Psalm, "*The Lord is my shepherd.*" When he was through, the audience was visibly moved. In fact, there was scarcely a dry eye in the place.

A man sitting by the famous actor, the famous orator, turned unto him and said, "I've heard you do that 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, but I believe the old man beat you. I believe he does it better than you do it." To which the actor replied, "Well, I suppose he does and the reason is; I know the Psalm; he knows the Shepherd." There is a difference! Those who love Christ, and who believe Christ have that new heart. God said, "*I will give them a new heart, a new nature. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.*"

True religion is not reformation and it is not association. It doesn't matter what church you belong to. It is not education, or how smart you are in the Bible. It is regeneration. "*Christ in you that is the hope of glory.*" It is to know God, the true and living God, and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent.

Here is the fourth question: What would it mean to you to know that every trial, (and there are plenty of them), and all the trouble, sorrow and disappointment in this life, that all of it is designed and purposed by your Heavenly Father? Everything that comes your way, good or bad is designed by your Heavenly Father and will serve His eternal glory and your eternal good. How would you like to know that?

I hear preachers talking about Satan doing this and Satan doing that. Let me tell you something, Satan, demons, all the powers of heaven and earth, can't touch a believer without God's permission. You write that down! That is so! If you are God's child, you have no fear from Satan, demons or anybody else unless your Heavenly Father permits it. If He permits it then we will endure it. It will be for our good and for His glory. That's so!

Read the Book of Job and you will find that Satan couldn't touch Job without God's permission. Everything that Satan did to Job, God permitted it. Do you remember Peter? Do you remember when the Lord Jesus turned to Peter and said to him, "*Satan hath desired thee that he might sift thee as wheat?*" He couldn't sift Peter; he couldn't tempt Peter and he couldn't touch Peter without the permission of the Son of God, Peter's Lord, and Master.

Our Lord is the Shepherd of the sheep. *“He is the Good Shepherd. He is the Great Shepherd and He is the Chief Shepherd.”* Do you think that He is going to neglect His sheep? Do you think He is going to leave His sheep prey to the beasts, monsters, demons, principalities, and powers? No one can touch His sheep without His permission.

It is not right to tell the people of God that they shall not have trials and troubles in this world. They will have them. We are not immune from them. We are subject to the infirmities of this flesh just like anyone else. Our Lord said, *“In this world you will have tribulation; you will have trouble; you will have trials.”* Peter wrote in First Peter 4, *“Beloved; think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though some strange thing has happened to you.”*

When you have a disappointment, when you (as believers) have trials and trouble, *“Don’t think that it is some strange thing.”* That is no strange thing; that is expected. That is part of this world. This is part of life and this is part of this flesh. That is part of this decay and corruption left by sin. Rejoice; these trials are to try your faith, to strengthen you, to comfort you. They are to bring you to be more established on Christ. Rejoice in as much as you are partakers of His suffering.

I am saying this, *“All things (I don’t care what they are, how they come or when they come), work together for good to them who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”* That is what my God says.

My God is the Almighty. Satan is not almighty and he is not omnipresent. Satan is not omnipotent, or omniscient; he doesn’t know everything. He is under the control of Almighty God. God gives His angels charge over you. His angels are sent to be ministers to you who are heirs of salvation.

Last of all, let me close with this; what would it mean to you to know that old age and even death will serve your good and your gain and your glory? Did not Paul say, *“For me to live is Christ and for me to die is gain?”* He said, *“I am in a straight betwixt the two; (I’m not certain which I want right now). I’d like to depart and be with Christ which is far better.”* But he said, *“I am concerned about you my friends, here on the earth. I’m to minister unto you and preach to you and help you. I still want to go home and be with the Lord. “For me to die is gain.”*

In Romans 8:18: the Scripture says; *“I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us: For this corruptible shall put on incorruption and this mortal shall put on immortality and our*

*weakness shall be turned into strength and our shame into glory. We are going to wake in His likeness.”*

David said, *“That is when I will be satisfied.”* This is the blessing for all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you see why David and Paul both rose to the occasion and said, *“Blessed is the man whose transgression is forgiven? Blessed is the man whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom God will not charge sin.”*