

## Psalm 32

When I begin to think of what to share in my weekly NEWSLETTER article, often I'll take a sermon or devotional message and try to boil it down to its essential elements and then write them down for everyone to read. This week, I decided to do something different. I opened my Bible randomly and read the pages that were in front of me. I knew no matter where I opened my Bible, God would have something great for me to share. The passage was **Psalm 32**, and, just as I suspected, David had a great message for me; a great message for all of us.

Scholars call this a penitential psalm—one reflecting David's penitence – and is one of seven he wrote (see **Psalms 6, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143**). David comes to a conclusion that all of us should also realize; we're sinful people and always in need of God's forgiveness. And he's thankful for the love and redemption God is so willing to give. David says in the first verses of the psalm:

**“Blessed is the one  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.  
Blessed is the one  
whose sin the LORD does not count against them  
and in whose spirit is no deceit.”**

David then describes the process of confession, a necessary element in forgiveness. He says the Lord's hand was **“heavy”** upon him and he **“acknowledged”** his sin and **“confessed.”** The result? **“...and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”** (verses 4 and 5)

God has promised in His word that if we are penitent – truly sorry for the sin in our life – and ask Him for forgiveness, He is faithful to do just that. John describes the same process in **1 John 1:9** when he says: **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”**

The righteous, David says, should pray to God for protection and deliverance. **“You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with the songs of deliverance.”** (verse 7) God will punish the wicked, but will **“surround the man who trusts in Him”** with his **“unfailing love.”** We, the **“righteous,”** the **“upright in heart,”** are to **“rejoice in the Lord and be glad.”** He is true to His word. (verses 10 and 11)

We all need to be aware of our condition and continue to trust in God for his forgiveness, His protection, His deliverance. Our faithful God will do just as He has promised.