

# RESTORE THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION

## Psalm 51

### I. WHY DO A SERIES ON HOW TO PRAY?

#### A. TO SERVE GOD MORE EFFECTIVELY

##### 1. FIVE GOALS

- Share the gospel
- Disciple the next generation
- Touch the city
- Train ministers
- Reach the world

##### 2. EFFECTIVENESS

- **Ph 4:13**—*I can accomplish all things through Him who strengthens me.*
- **Jas 5:16**—*The effectively powerful praying of a righteous person can accomplish much*

#### B. FOR OUR BENEFIT

1. To know God better
2. To meet our own needs
3. To help others

#### C. BEING CHRIST-FOLLOWERS

1. Obeying His command—**Lk 18:1**—we should **always pray**—and never lose heart
2. Becoming like their Master—Christ-like
3. Following His example—He prayed continually

### II. WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT PRAYER

- ❖ **DRAW CLOSE TO GOD—WE HAVE SPECIAL ACCESS—TO “OUR FATHER”**
- ❖ **INTERCEDE URGENTLY FOR AND WITH EVERYONE WE KNOW**
- ❖ **FOR GOD’S PEACE UPON OUR COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORS**
- ❖ **BE INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE AMIDST TURMOIL**
- ❖ **OUR WITNESS WILL BE GODLY AND DIGNIFIED**
- ❖ **FAITHFULLY PROCLAIM CHRIST AS THE TRUTH**
- ❖ **WORK WE WILL EFFECTIVELY RECLAIM THE LOST**
- ❖ **THAT THE FATHER WILL SHOW HIMSELF IN A MIGHTY WAY**
- ❖ **BE HUMBLE—“NOT TO US, O LORD”—GLORIFY HIM ABOVE ALL**
- ❖ **STAND BOLDLY FOR HIS SUPERNATURALITY**
- ❖ **TESTIFY TO HIS HOLINESS—BE HOLY LIKE HIM**
- ❖ **HELP CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN THE HOLY AND THE HUMAN**
- ❖ **CALL UPON NAME OF THE LORD—PROVISION—PROTECTION—SALVATION**
- ❖ **URGENCY ABOUT CHRIST’S RETURN—BEING READY AND WORKING**
- ❖ **HELP BUILD HIS UNIVERSAL KINGDOM—NOT PETTY FIEFDOMS**

- ❖ **BECOME** WHO HE MADE US TO BE—AND **DO** WHAT PLEASURES GOD
- ❖ BE AWARE **HIS HEAVENLY WILL** IS FOUNDATIONAL, ETERNAL AND SUPREME
- ❖ ASK GOD TO KEEP US IN HIS **PERFECT WILL** EVERY STEP OF THE **WAY**
- ❖ ASK GOD TO REVEAL HIS **SPECIFIC PURPOSE** FOR EACH OF US HERE AND NOW
- ❖ HELP GOD ACCOMPLISH HIS **HEAVENLY WILL** ON EARTH
- ❖ WE DON'T WORRY, BUT **RELY** ON GOD FOR **ALL** OUR PROVISION
- ❖ WE DISCOVER WHAT OUR REAL **NEEDS** ARE
- ❖ WE TRUST THAT **GOD TRULY CARES** AND WANTS WHAT IS BEST FOR US

### III. JESUS' WORDS IN THE LORD'S PRAYER—verse 12

And forgive us our **trespasses**, as we forgive those who **trespass** against us.  
 And forgive us our **debts**, as we forgive our **debtors**.

#### A. WHAT JESUS ACTUALLY SAID

1. Question: did Jesus say “debts”—or—“trespasses?”
2. Almost every English version says “debts”
  - From Wycliffe (1395)—through KJV—to modern day
  - No modern English version says ‘trespasses’
  - Only one does not say “debt”—New Living Translation says “sins”
3. So where do we get ‘trespasses’?
  - **BOCP**—1549—revised 1559
  - Built on **Tyndale’s** translation—1526
  - Perpetuated by John Rogers in Matthew’s Bible—1549

#### B. GENERAL SCOPE OF PRAYER—DEALS WITH ‘SIN’

1. **Verse 14**—Jesus says ‘trespasses’
  - a. **παραπτώμα** = ‘to fall’—not be upright
    - o Could *imply* narrower scope of ‘debt’—by falling short
    - o But usually a general term for all wrong-doing
  - b. Used by Paul and James to mean—‘sin’—‘fault’
2. **Luke 11:4**—parallel passage of **v12**—says “forgive us our sins”
  - **αμαρτια** = miss the mark
3. So—Jesus is addressing all aspects of ‘sin’ in general—such as:
  - Miss the mark—**αμαρτια**

- Fall short—**παραπτώμα**
- Ignorance of law—**αγνομα**
- Non-observance of law—**ανομια**
- Create disharmony—**πλημμελεια**
- Disobey command—**παρκοη**
- Give unfair payment—**ητημα**
- Transgress boundary—trespass—**παρβασις**

4. Overall implication of prayers in **Mt 6** and **Lk11**

- God *will* forgive all ‘sin’

5. But—specific scope of **Mt 6:12**—is much narrower

**C. FOCAL MEANING OF VERSE 12**

1. Jesus does not address sinful **act** itself

2. Instead he zeroes in on **result**

- **οφειλημα** = **debt**
- Sin breaks our relationship with someone
- So that—we ‘fall short’ of an obligation—and become indebted to that person

**D. ‘DEBT’—IN FULL CONTEXT OF ‘SIN’**

1. THREE RELATIONSHIPS—affected by sin

- **God—Others—Ourselves**

2. THREE PHASES—of sinfulness

a. **Violation**—immediate **action**

- o We offend—harm—someone

b. **Separation**—immediate **effect**

- o We **alienate**—break relationship—with someone
- o **Obligation** not met—**debt** is incurred

c. **Proliferation**—reverberating **echoes**

- o Cascading effects—beyond initial act

3. EXPLANATION

a. **Sin against God**

1. **Violation**

- Disobey His will—His commands
- Dishonor His person—His holiness

- We ‘**rob**’ God

## 2. Separation

### a. Alienation

- ❖ Metaphysical—sin erects **barrier**—separates us from His holiness
- ❖ Relational—breaks covenant of trust—creates **gap**

### b. Obligation—result of the **gap**—and **robbing** God

- ❖ We fall short—of who we were made to be
- ❖ We incur a **debt**—‘reparations’ must be made
- ❖ We **owe** God—worship—honor—and obedience

## 3. Proliferation

### a. We damage His reputation

### b. Others blame Him—for what we do

- ❖ If He is omniscient—does He not know about evil?
- ❖ If He is good—doesn’t He care enough to stop sin?
- ❖ If He is omnipotent—can He not stop sin?
- ❖ If He is wise—why does He allow us to choose sin?

## b. Sin against others

### 1. Violation

- a. We **rob**: murder—adultery—steal
- b. We **deceive**: lie—covet [defraud]

### 2. Separation

- a. Alienation—break friendship—make enemies
- b. Obligation—we **owe** them for loss—harm—damage
  - ❖ Incur a **debt**—‘reparations’ must be made
  - ❖ **Example: Germany owed \$564 billion after WWI [today’s money]**

### 3. Proliferation

- a. **Ripple** effect—one sin affects many people
- b. **Social** effect—chain reaction causes others to sin
- c. **Example: Germany’s default of reparations**
  - ❖ **Paid only \$85 billion**
  - ❖ **France occupied Ruhr Valley—led to WW II**

## c. Sin against ourselves

## 1. Violation

- a. Self-harm—we wound ourselves
  - ❖ Physically—psychologically—emotionally—spiritually
- b. We **rob** ourselves of—true identity—dignity—divine image

## 2. Separation

- a. Alienation—divides us into two persons—schizophrenia
  - ❖ Sinful person—vs—holy person we should be—**Rom 7**
- b. Obligation—**debt**—we rob ourselves
  - ❖ Loss of integrity—oneness—wholeness
  - ❖ Loss of the *imago Dei*
  - ❖ Loss of relationships—with God and others

## 3. Proliferation—personal side-effects

- Inability to know and do right
- Sense of guilt
- Loss of joy and purpose

## 4. SUMMARY

- a. Sin **violates**—transgresses boundary—and **robs**
- b. Sin **separates**—breaks relationship—and creates an alienating **debt**
  - a. **Until debt is paid—relationship cannot be restored!**
- c. Sin **proliferates**—*everyone* sins—compounds **debt**—nobody can ever repay!

## E. WHAT JESUS MEANS IN VERSE 12

### 1. JESUS DEALS WITH SIN'S IMMEDIATE EFFECT

- Gives remedy for **debt**
- Paves way for restored relationship

### 2. ASK GOD TO 'FORGIVE' OUR DEBT—TO HIM

- a. Forgive = 'throw away'—'disregard'—'give up'
- b. Cancel 'shortfall' of sin
  - o We have not fulfilled our obligation to Him
  - o Where we have 'fallen short'
- c. He will cancel **debt**—close the gap
- d. This reverses the process

- o When **debt** is paid—alienation stops
  - o Then restoration of relationship begins
3. **ASK GOD TO DO THIS ‘FULLY’**—aorist imperative
- a. Humans cannot do this fully
    1. They cannot forgive **moral** violation against **God**
    2. They cannot **forget**—all effects of sin
  - b. Only God can ‘fully’ forgive debt
    1. Complete **removal**—completely cast away
      - o Utter depths of the sea—**Mic 7:19**
      - o East from West—**Ps 103:12**
    2. Completely erased—no **memory**
      - o He will remember them no more—**Heb 8:12**
    3. Complete **cleansing**
      - o Will **forgive** our sins and cleanse **all** unrighteousness—**I Jn 1:9**

#### 4. WHAT GOD’S FORGIVENESS DOES **NOT** DO

- a. **Undo** violation—what is *done* cannot be *undone*
- b. **Cancel** human payment—still a legal/social **debt** must be paid
- c. **Stop** rippling effects—they continue to affect others

### F. PRINCIPLES OF FORGIVING DEBT

#### 1. OUR PRIMARY INDEBTEDNESS IS TO GOD

- Every sin—is first against Him

#### 2. ONLY HE CAN FULLY FORGIVE SIN

- Only He can close gap between us and Him
- True human forgiveness—begins with His working through both parties

#### 3. ONLY HE CAN PAY DEBT—ATONEMENT

- Requires **human payment**—for human sin
- Requires **divine payment**—for offending God’s holiness and defying His commands
- Only **Christ—God-Man**—satisfies requirements

#### 4. GOAL OF FORGIVENESS—AND PAYING DEBT

- a. Not to undo the bad—impossible
- b. Not to stop proliferating effects—improbable

- c. Not to get a reward
  - o Reward for sin—and its debt—is ‘death’!
  - o Cancellation of debt—leads to ‘life’
  - o But this is not the main goal!
  
- d. **Main goal** is—**restored relationship** with God
  1. There is no life apart from Him
  2. We should first yearn for Him
    - o Not as a **means** for something else
    - o But as the **end** in itself—to be with Him
    - o To glorify God—and enjoy Him forever
    - o **Just as David did**

I have found **David** son of Jesse, **a man after my own heart**;  
he will do everything I want him to do. Acts 13:22; I Sam 13:14

#### IV. TEXT—DAVID’S PRAYER OF CONFESSION—PSALM 51

**1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. 6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. 7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness, let the bones which You have broken rejoice. 9 Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You. 14 Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise. 16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. 18 By Your favor do good to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem.**

**19 Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, in burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.**

## **V. DAVID'S SITUATION—II Samuel 11-12**

1. DAVID'S SIN VIOLATED EVERY PART OF SECOND TABLE OF LAW
  - Adultery
  - Murder
  - Stealing
  - Lying
  - Coveting
2. HE COULD NOT UNDO WHAT HE HAD DONE
3. HE VIOLATED AND ALIENATED THOSE IN HIS TRUST
4. HIS SIN PROLIFERATED—AFFECTED HIS LEADERSHIP AND ALL SOCIETY
5. HIS SIN CAUSED UNBEARABLE GUILT—SELF-HARM
6. MOST IMPORTANT—HIS SIN OFFENDED GOD—DAMAGED THEIR RELATIONSHIP

## **VI. WHAT DAVID TEACHES ABOUT FORGIVENESS**

### **A. BEWARE—SIN HAS MANY DIMENSIONS**

- Rebellion = TRANSGRESSIONS—**vv 1, 3**
- Missing mark—straying from duty = SIN—**vv 3,5,9,13**
- Depravity—guilt—perversity = INIQUITY—**vv 5,9**
- Wounding others = BLOOD-GUILTINESS—**v14**

### **B. FORGIVENESS—BEGINS WITH GOD**

1. Sin is ultimately against God
  - **Against You—You only—I have sinned—v 4**
2. We are measured by divine standard—not human opinion
  - **You are justified when you speak—and blameless when you judge—v4**
3. Forgiveness is by God's grace alone
  - **Be gracious to me, O God, according to your lovingkindness—v1**

### **C. WE NEED CLEANSING—TO ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE**

- **Wash me—vv 2, 7**
- **Cleanse me—v 2**
- **Purify me—v7**
- **Blot out all my iniquities—v9**



➤ Deliver me from 'blood'—v14

#### D. OUR PRIMARY NEED—RESTORED RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

##### 1. GOD CLOSES THE GAP

- Hide your face from my sin—v9
- Do not cast me away—v11
- Do not take away your spirit—v11

##### 2. GOD ENABLES US TO ENTER HIS PRESENCE

###### a. Empowers us

- o Discernment—Make me know wisdom—v6
- o Hope—let me hear joy/gladness and let my broken bones rejoice—v8

###### b. Gives us right motives

- o You desire truth in the innermost being—v6
- o Create in me a clean heart—v10

###### c. Renew a steadfast spirit within us—v10

##### 3. GOD **RESTORES** AND SUSTAINS

- Restore to me the joy of Your salvation—v12
- Sustain me with a willing spirit—v12

### VII. APPLICATION

#### 1. IT IS **GOD'S** SALVATION—NOT OURS

- Restore to me joy of **Your** salvation
- Not something David generated

#### 2. THERE IS **HOPE**—EVEN IN THE MIDST OF SIN

- David hoped—even in the depth of his depression
- We are never so 'separated'—that God is not approachable

#### 3. SALVATION IS NOT IN JEOPARDY

##### a. Salvation is based on firmly established relationship

- o David had a heart for God
- o His salvation was set—whether or not he knew it

##### b. What was lost

- o Joy—and assurance—of God's presence

c. David's plea

- o Restore the **JOY** of Your salvation—not salvation itself
- o **Examples of restored joy**
  1. **Moses descending with Shekinah glory** after interceding with God
  2. **Day of Atonement**—as High Priest emerged from Holy of Holies

4. **HUMILITY IN CONFESSION—AND FORGIVENESS**

- a. Be willing to let go of sin—like David
  - o Humbly accept forgiveness we cannot earn
  - o Don't let sin's bondage prevent seeking God's forgiveness
- b. Don't depend on religious ceremonies or self-righteous pride
  - o **Broken spirit—contrite heart—v17**

5. THE **PRIZE OF FORGIVENESS—IS GOD'S PRESENCE**

- David *begged* for forgiveness—“**blot out my transgressions**”—**v1**
- His passionate desire—ultimate **goal**—was **restored fellowship** with God
- No reward beyond that—but seeking God Himself

6. RESTORATION OF PRESENCE—DEMANDS CANCELLATION OF DEBT

- Done only by Jesus Christ—who *paid* the **ransom/debt**

**VI. INVITATION**

**FORGIVE OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE**

**'Forgive our sins as we forgive,  
you taught us, Lord, to pray,  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.**

**How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart,  
that broods on wrongs and will not let  
old bitterness depart?**

**In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew:  
what trivial debts are owed to us,  
how great our debt to you!**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,**

**and bid resentment cease;  
then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
our lives will spread your peace.**