

The Joy of Confession and Forgiveness

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Key idea:

Concealing our sin brings only death, suffering, and pain, but confessing our sin brings life, forgiveness, healing, and true joy.

Key text:

Psalm 32 (ESV)

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you. Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Key points:

1. Concealing sin leads to suffering, pain, and death.
2. Confessing sin leads to forgiveness, healing, and life.
3. Confession and forgiveness enables us to radiate God's grace to others.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. What does this passage say about God's grace in forgiving sin and guiding His people?

3. What does it mean that concealing sin misrepresents God's grace? In what areas might I need to evaluate myself to represent God's grace properly?
4. How does David's tale of experiencing confession and forgiveness give me cause for hope?
5. Who do I know that I can encourage to embrace God's forgiveness this week?
6. Who will I call or see to invite to church this coming Sunday?