

Sermon Discussion Guide

Psalm 32 – “The Blessing of Being Forgiven”

Preaching Date: December 21, 2025

Opening Prayer

Thank the Lord for His mercy and grace in Christ—that He does not treat us as our sins deserve, but offers forgiveness through confession and repentance. Ask the Holy Spirit to expose any hidden sin, soften hearts to receive correction, and lead to true joy in the gospel of Jesus.

Recap

Psalm 32 is a psalm of wisdom and thanksgiving that flows out of deep personal failure. David, who had experienced the agony of unconfessed sin and the relief of God’s forgiveness, teaches us that joy comes not through hiding sin, but through honest confession and repentance. The psalm opens with the language of blessing—describing the happiness of those whose sins are forgiven, covered, and not counted against them. But David also recalls the internal torment he experienced when he kept silent. It was not until he acknowledged and confessed his sin that he found healing. The psalm then turns into an invitation: everyone who is godly should seek the Lord in prayer. God becomes a hiding place and a surrounding song of deliverance for those who turn to Him. God Himself then speaks, offering counsel and urging the hearer not to be stubborn like a mule but to walk in obedience. The psalm ends in joyful celebration—rejoicing in the Lord because of the great gift of forgiveness. As we approach Christmas, this psalm reminds us why Christ came: to bear our sin and to make us truly blessed.

Understanding the Text

1. Verses 1–2 describe the blessing of forgiveness using several images. What does it mean for sin to be “covered” and not “impute iniquity”? Why is this so central to the gospel?
2. David uses three different words for sin (transgression, sin, iniquity). How do these different terms help us grasp the depth of our need for forgiveness?
3. In verses 3–4, David describes the physical and spiritual effects of unconfessed sin. Why does sin cause this kind of inner turmoil?
4. Verse 5 is the turning point. What does true confession look like according to this verse? How is it different from mere regret or embarrassment?
5. In verses 6–7, what promises are given to those who turn to the Lord in prayer? What does it mean that God is a “hiding place”?
6. In verses 8–9, God gives instruction. Why is it necessary for forgiveness to be followed by counsel and obedience? Why do we resist God’s direction at times?
7. How do verses 10–11 contrast the end of the wicked and the joy of the forgiven? What does it look like to “be glad in the Lord”?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. Are there any areas in your life where you are tempted to cover or conceal sin rather than confess it? What keeps us from honest confession?
2. What physical, emotional, or spiritual signs might indicate that someone is carrying the weight of unconfessed sin?
3. Have you ever experienced the kind of relief and joy David describes after confessing sin and receiving forgiveness? What was that like?
4. How might this psalm shape your approach to relationships where sin and forgiveness are needed? What would it look like to offer others the same grace God has extended to you?
5. In this Advent season, how does Psalm 32 point you to the mission and mercy of Christ? How does it enhance your appreciation of Jesus' coming?

God Has More to Say

The Blessing of Forgiveness

- Isaiah 1:18
- Romans 4:6–8
- 1 John 1:9

God's Presence as a Refuge

- Psalm 46:1–3
- Isaiah 55:6–7
- Colossians 3:3

Instruction and Restoration

- Proverbs 3:11–12
- Hebrews 12:5–11
- James 1:22

Christ, Our Sin-Bearer

- Isaiah 53:4–6
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Hebrews 4:14–16