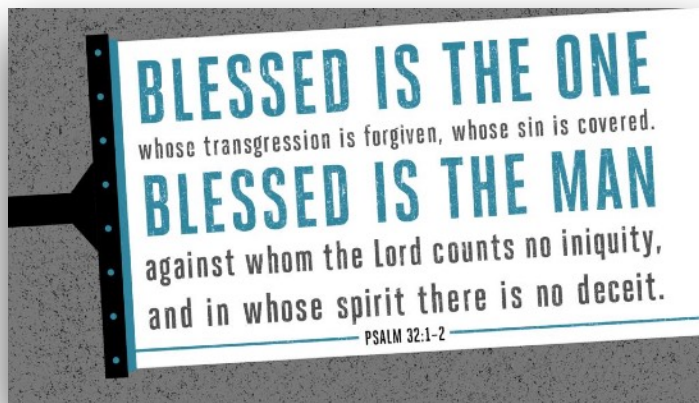




The Right Way to Cover Your Sins

(Psalm 32) David writes here about the blessing of having one's sins covered. We need to understand that there is a *right way* and a *wrong way* to cover sins. The true covering of sins is something that only God can do (verses 3, 5). Notice the three ways we sin against God mentioned here: (1) *transgression*, which signifies passing over the boundary, doing what is prohibited; (2) *sin*, which indicates the missing of the mark, not doing what is commanded; and (3) *iniquity*, suggesting that which is turned out of its proper course, anything morally distorted or perverted (carries the idea of "guilt"). Man commits sin in all of these ways, and such sin stands between him and God (Isaiah 59:1-2). But no matter what form of sin one is caught in, the pardon of it is a blessed experience! This passage does not teach that God *ignores* or takes no notice of man's sin. But when a man is truly *penitent*—and this is the key—then God grants him an official verdict of pardon. This is a forensic act, a judgment from God's throne. The man is still a sinner, but God consents to pardon him.



The solution to properly covering one's sins is found in repentance and

confession (verses 3, 5). There are wrong ways to cover sin and unfortunately man frequently chooses these instead of God's way. This is described by the wise man when he says, "He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy" (Proverbs 28:13). Man often chooses to ignore his sin and refuses to confess it. David evidently had this problem at first, for in verse three he says, "I kept silence." The inevitable result of such a course for any man is *guilt*. We cannot successfully "hide" or "cover up" our sin. It must be acknowledged and confessed. Only then will the terrible burden of guilt be removed (verse 3) and only then can we feel, and actually be, blessed (verse 1).

-continued on the next page

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Worship:

9:30 AM - Sermon
10:30 AM - Bible Class
11:30 AM - Lord's Supper

Wednesday Worship:

7:00 PM - All ages

Friday Bible Study:

10:15 AM @ Annex

Bible Class Topics:

Selected Psalms
Prison Epistles
Apologetics
Children: Sacred Hearts
Check with deacons for workbooks

Shepherds

Amos Rowe
Roger James
Keith Parks
Don Burleson

Contact Information:

2053 High School Road
Hueytown, AL 35023

Office Phone:
317-363-9900 - Ed
256-431-4551 - Benjamin



Feel free to stop by the preachers' offices for Bible studies, prayers, talks, or a meeting.

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David had a season of impenitence. It is hard to say, "I have sinned"—especially for one in the position of David who had an unblemished reputation in the eyes of the nation for many years. But he says in verse three that the result of his refusal to admit wrong was that his "bones wasted away." There was a withering away of his strength because of the burden of guilt—and it penetrated to the core of his being. It caused him to groan in his heart. Why is it so hard for men to admit sin? What factors are at work in each of our lives that hinder the confession of sins? I want to suggest three:

1. Pride. Men cannot bear to think themselves wrong, to feel that they are as mistake-prone and as awful as others. Paul writes that men are "headstrong, puffed up" (2 Timothy 3:4). Many could easily "pray" with the Pharisee, "I thank thee, that I am not as the rest of men" (Luke 18:11). Such a person cannot begin to get close to God (James 4:6, 8-10).

2. Self-deception. Notice that David says that "guile" (insincerity) hinders men from a full confession (verse 2). Some do not have honesty of conscience. James says that some men are self-deceived (1:22). We must want to know the truth about ourselves.

3. Carelessness, indolence, insensibility. Some are merely careless; others' senses are dulled by the things of the world. Their consciences have been "seared" (1 Timothy 4:2); they are "past feeling" (Ephesians 4:19); they are plagued with "fatness" (Isaiah 6:10).

The only way to properly cover sins that is consistent with man's nature as God made him—is for him to *confess it*, and let *God* cover it, pardon it, and remember it no more. All of us need the contrite heart which says, "For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin" (Psalm 38:18).

Lewis, B. (1985). The Psalms in Practice: The Right Way To Cover Your Sins. Christianity Magazine, 2(4), 25.

That's Life!

"Since our fathers lived all continues the same."

If you want to serve the Lord today, try these simple little starters: Deliberately set out to make someone happy. Let a cutting remark pass by without replying in kind. Smile in the midst of some difficult situation. Stop the chain of gossip by not repeating what you have heard. Do some good for someone with their not knowing it. Seek peace. (Psalm 34:14)

No one ever learned the bible by osmosis; you have to work at it. No one ever made progress in his spiritual life without first making out a plan to achieve it; you have to work at it. No one ever converted anyone to Christ who did not first love him enough to recommend Him; you have to work at it. No one will ever get to heaven by coasting; you have to work at it. (Matthew 22: 35-40)

Maintenance is just part of the program. There is the daily need to make sure all's in order. To do so the Christian must set a goal toward greater spiritual strength. He must be prepared for adversity and opposition; it will come. He must retain the lively hope which is so vital to his ability to stand firmly. He must gain the strength that comes from associating with those of like precious faith. He must read and study the Scriptures, for they are his best deterrent to temptation. And he must be kind; even if it's hard, it's still the best course. A day at a time, that's how it's done.

Bowman, D. (1985). That's Life!

QUIPS & QUOTES FORM YESTERYEAR

"Any job worth doing is worth doing well."

"Leave no stone unturned."

"There's no such thing as a free lunch."

"Don't judge a book by its cover."

"No man is an island."

"Honesty is the best policy."

"As you sow so shall you reap."

Public Opinion vs. Truth

One method that is used to change people's belief is the use of public opinion polls. It's a clever approach because we as humans — for the most part — like to blend in with the rest of society.

Daily we are confronted with "statistics" which are gathered from polls as to whether something is right or wrong. A colorful bar-graph in the corner of a newspaper may inform us that 55 percent of all Americans believe that one's "sexual preference" should not be a factor in determining whether they should be accepted into military; a TV network news program, before going to a commercial, may display a graphic showing that a majority of Americans believe the elderly and infirm ought to be able to commit suicide; a talk-show host may cite the results of a national poll that reveals that most Americans want the public schools to provide their children birth control advice and products. And the list goes on.

We are being fooled if we think this is anything other than an attempt to gradually change people's beliefs. The frightening part is that it's working. People are actually swayed by the results of polls. Confronted day after day that I am out of step with society, I am inclined to think that there must be something wrong with my thinking. Gradually, most people come around to thinking like most others in society.

The fact of the matter is that public opinion has absolutely nothing to do with determining truth. Though polls might be of interest to us, they should not influence

our beliefs about right and wrong. A poll taken in Iraq would likely show that most of that nation favors the destruction of America. Does that make it right?

Of course, Christians are aware that our Lord expect us to be different from most of our neighbors. We are warned that we are not to be "conformed to this world" ([Rom.12:2](#)). So, it should not affect our convictions when we hear that we are not in the mainstream of our society. Our convictions are based on God's word, which does not change with the polls.

When told that most people believe one thing, let's not be ashamed to say that we believe something else — and that we believe it because our Creator has revealed the truth on the matter ([Rom. 1:16](#)). We need to remember that the vast majority of those polled are running headlong to destruction ([Matt.7:13](#)).

I once saw a sign which declared, "The Lord and I make a majority." That sounds good on the surface, but in reality, the Lord makes a majority whether I am with Him or not! It is my task to make sure that I am following Him — not "what seems right" which in reality is "the way of death" ([Prov. 14:12](#)).

One final point: What applies to polls of the general public, also applies to polls among brethren. Truth cannot be determined by finding out what most brethren believe and/or practice. (Diestelkamp, Al. "Public Opinion vs. Truth." www.mightyisthelord.com, 11 Sept. 2022, bit.ly/3ZhK100.)

Member News and Prayer Requests

- Mrs. Virginia Hawsey is at home and doing good after a trip to the ER and hospital stay last week due to some diverticulosis.
- Ashley Johnson has begun her physical therapy and has been twice now. She said it wasn't fun, but she thinks it is helping. Please continue to pray that she will improve with each session.
- Brian Bonner's heart ablation is scheduled for February 22. If there is a cancellation before then, he hopes to be able to get in sooner. Please pray for Brian as he deals with these heart issues.
- Linda is doing great and has gone back to work this week, after having heart valve surgery at St. Vincent's recently. She goes back to the Dr. January 16. Continue your prayers please.
- Don has been struggling with vertigo, but is better and was able to be at Bible study on Wednesday.
- Carol was not able to be out but is doing OK. Prayers please.
- Please continue to pray for sister Janet Ethridge as she is scheduled to have cancer surgery on the 9th of January at Grandview Hospital. She requests our prayers on her behalf. Address for cards is: 1368 Park Rd., Bessemer, AL 35023. Her phone # is(205)688-7707.
- Craig Johnson has COVID and is currently recuperating at the nursing home.
- Bible studies: Ed and Benjamin are available for any in-home Bible studies. Please let us know of any contacts you may have.
- **P.M. Sermon: The Existence of God**

THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

P.M. Sermon

After the sermon is over, at some point, go back over your notes and analyze what you heard.

What Was The



Use one sentence to summarize what this sermon was all about.

THEME

Of This Sermon?

MAIN POINTS

1

His point was: _____

He explained it by saying: _____

Scriptures cited to support it: _____

2

His point was: _____

He explained it by saying: _____

Scriptures cited to support it: _____

3

His point was: _____

He explained it by saying: _____

Scriptures cited to support it: _____