

Repentance and Restoration

Psalms 51

Introduction: The human conscience is not a guide, it is a guard.

“One small drop of a guilty conscience troubles a whole sea of outward comforts.” - John Trapp

Key Truth: *Your guilty conscience should drive you to God for mercy and restoration.*

David penned Psalm 51 as a theological reflection giving directions to those with a guilty conscience.

I. Ask God to Have Mercy On You

A. You Recognize Your Need for Mercy

2 Samuel 12:13; 1 Samuel 15

B. You Believe God is Merciful

Exodus 34:6-7a, “The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...”

Ephesians 2:1-4

“Nowhere else in the Bible is God described as rich in anything. The only thing he is called rich in is: mercy.” - Dane Ortlund

2 Corinthians 1:3; Micah 7:18; Lamentations 3:22-23

II. Ask God to Transform You

David did not become sinful when he sinned, he sinned because he was sinful.

When we have sinned against God and we turn to Him for mercy, we must also ask Him to transform us.

Romans 12:1-2

As believers under the New Covenant we have the distinct blessing and privilege of being permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 8

III. Ask God to Glorify Himself by Forgiving You

A guilty conscience is intended to produce a broken heart.

Isaiah 66:1-2; James 4:6b

When David prays for the walls of Jerusalem to be built up, he’s not speaking of the literal walls, he’s speaking figuratively of the moral defenses.

1 Samuel 15:22

The truly repentant will not only own their sin, they will also own the consequences of their sin.