

PSALM 32

Let us be encouraged by the declarations that David makes in this psalm to draw nigh to God whenever our conscience and remorse warn us that we have need of pardon and consolation. St. John also assures us that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive them and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us now allow the moral wound made by sin to become a putrifying sore, but seek the Lord while he may be found. We shall then enjoy the blessedness that results from a sense of reconciliation with our offended Maker.

A Psalm of David. A Maskil.

- 1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- 2 Blessed is the man against whom YAHWEH counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

- 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

- 5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to YAHWEH,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

- 6 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.
- 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah

- 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- 9 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.

- 10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in YAHWEH.
- 11 Be glad in YAHWEH, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

PRAYER

O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongs, have mercy upon us whose sins are great and many, for you are gracious and delight in mercy. We confess we have been headstrong in our passions, sensual in our affections, and lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. O cleanse us from our secret as well as from our glaring sins, and preserve us from the overwhelming sorrows that await the unrighteous and impenitent sinner. Your mercy reaches to the heavens and your faithfulness to the clouds. Guide us and teach us the way wherein we should go, and we will rejoice in your holy comfort, O merciful Saviour and Redeemer, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns now and forevermore. Amen.