

PSALM 51

Here we have David's psalm of great contrition over his sin of adultery. He gives no excuses for his behavior but confesses his sin. In asking for pardon, he anticipates his restored favor with God and declares his gratitude by singing God's praise.

For the choir director.

**A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him,
after he had gone in to Bathsheba.**

- 1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,
so that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge.

- 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.
- 6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.
- 7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness, let the bones which You have broken rejoice.
- 9 Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit.
- 13 *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You.

- 14 Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation;
Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise.
- 16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it;
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

- 18 By Your favor do good to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem.
- 19 Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, in burnt offering and whole burnt offering;
then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.

PRAYER

Most merciful God, you take no delight in the death of the sinner, but would rather he turn and live. You have graciously provided for man's recovery in the death of your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that those who are still strangers to your grace may repent and forsake their sins, trusting in the merits and sufferings of the Messiah for salvation. For us your disciples, cleanse us from our iniquities and support us by your Holy Spirit that we may walk in obedience to your word. We bring these petitions before your throne of grace through our great intercessor, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.