

many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.
 20 O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in you.

21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on you.

22 Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

PSALM 26

JUDGE me, O LORD; for I have walked in my integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide.

2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

3 For your lovingkindness is before my eyes: and I have walked in your truth.

4 I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers.

5 I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.

6 I will wash my hands in innocency: so will I compass your altar, O LORD:

7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all your wondrous works.

8 LORD, I have loved the habitation of your house, and the place where your honor dwells.

9 Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men:

10 In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes.

11 But as for me, I will walk in my integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me.

12 My foot stands in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the LORD.

PSALM 27

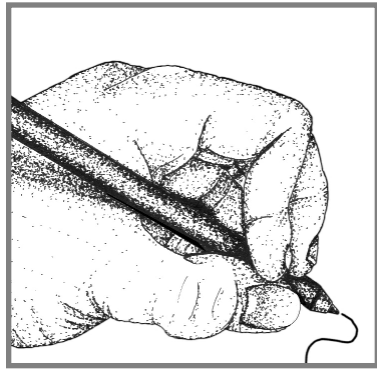
THE LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

5 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.



*Who wrote the Bible—God or men?
 See 2 Peter 2:21 footnote.*

6 And now shall my head be lifted up above my enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

8 When you said, Seek my face; my heart said unto you, Your face, LORD, will I seek.

9 Hide not your face far from me; put not your servant away in anger: you have been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

10 When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

27:12 Messianic prophecy: This was fulfilled in Matthew 26:60.

28:4,5 It is a fearful thing for sinners to be given exactly what they deserve.

11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of my enemies.

12 Deliver me not over unto the will of my enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

PSALM 28

UNTO you will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if you be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.

2 Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto you, when I lift up my hands toward your holy oracle.

3 Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbors, but mischief is in their hearts.

4 Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavors: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert.

5 Because they regard not the works of the LORD, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up.

6 Blessed be the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplications.

7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoices; and

with my song will I praise him.

8 The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed.

9 Save your people, and bless your inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

PSALM 29

GIVE unto the LORD, O you mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

2 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thunders: the LORD is upon many waters.

4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; yes, the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

6 He makes them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn.

7 The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire.

8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

9 The voice of the LORD makes the hinds to calve, and discovers the forests: and in his temple does every one speak of his glory.

10 The LORD sits upon the flood; yes, the LORD sits King for ever.

11 The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

29:3-9 The voice of the Lord. It was the "voice of the Lord" (His Word) that brought creation into existence (see Genesis 1:3; John 1:1-3). God's voice then became flesh in the person of Jesus of Nazareth (John 1:14; 1 John 1:1-3). That's why Jesus said strange things about His voice: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear [My] voice" (John 5:28). He said, "The words that I speak to you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). It was the voice of the Savior that brought Lazarus back to life (John 11:43), and it is His voice that will bring the dead out of their graves at the resurrection (John 5:28,29). His voice brings life.

This is just one example of a wonderfully unique aspect of the Bible. One can study a multitude of subjects in its different books, and find incredible continuity, despite the fact that the books were written thousands of years apart.

PSALM 30

I WILL extol you, O LORD; for you have lifted me up, and have not made my foes to rejoice over me.

2 O LORD my God, I cried unto you, and you have healed me.

3 O LORD, you have brought up my soul from the grave: you have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

4 Sing unto the LORD, O you saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

5 For his anger endures but a moment; in his favor is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

6 And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.

7 LORD, by your favor you have made my mountain to stand strong: you did hide your face, and I was troubled.

8 I cried to you, O LORD; and unto the LORD I made supplication.

9 What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise you? shall it declare your truth?

10 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be you my helper.

11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing: you have put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

12 To the end that my glory may sing praise to you, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto you for ever.

PSALM 31

IN you, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Bow down your ear to me; deliver me speedily: be my strong rock, for an house of defense to save me.

3 For you are my rock and my fortress; therefore for your name's sake lead me, and guide me.

4 Pull me out of the net that they have

laid privily for me: for you are my strength.
5 Into your hand I commit my spirit: you have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

6 I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD.

7 I will be glad and rejoice in your mercy: for you have considered my trouble; you have known my soul in adversities;

8 And have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: you have set my feet in a large room.

9 Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: my eye is consumed with grief, yes, my soul and my belly.

10 For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones are consumed.

11 I was a reproach among all my enemies, but especially among my neighbors, and a fear to my acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me.

12 I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel.

13 For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life.

14 But I trusted in you, O LORD: I said, You are my God.

15 My times are in your hand: deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from them that persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant: save me for your mercies' sake.

17 Let me not be ashamed, O LORD; for I have called upon you: let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave.

18 Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

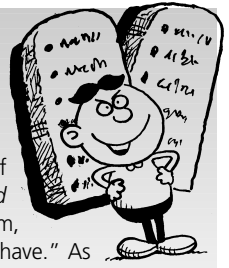
19 *Oh how great is your goodness, which you have laid up for them that fear you; which you have wrought for them that trust*

QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS

32:5

“What if someone says, ‘I’ve broken every one of the Ten Commandments?’”

Do not take this statement to mean that the person has seen the gravity of his sinful state before God. He may say something like, “I’m a really *bad* person!” It is often used as a way of shrugging off conviction. Say to him, “Well let’s take the time to go through them one by one and see if you have.” As he is confronted with the righteous standard of God’s Moral Law, pray that the Holy Spirit brings conviction of sin.



in you before the sons of men!

20 *You shall hide them in the secret of your presence from the pride of man: you shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.*

21 Blessed be the LORD: for he has showed me his marvelous kindness in a strong city.

22 For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before your eyes: nevertheless you heard the voice of my supplications when I cried unto you.

23 O love the LORD, all you his saints: for the LORD preserve the faithful, and plentifully reward the proud doer.

24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all you that hope in the LORD.

PSALM 32

BLESSED is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputes not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

5 I acknowledge my sin unto you, and

my iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

6 For this shall every one that is godly pray unto you in a time when you may be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come near unto him.

7 You are my hiding place; you shall preserve me from trouble; you shall compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you shall go: I will guide you with my eye.

9 Be not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto you.

10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusts in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, you righteous: and shout for joy, all you that are upright in heart.

PSALM 33

REJOICE in the LORD, O you righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.

2 Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto

32:1,2 *Transgression* is violation of the Law. *Sin* is falling short of the Law’s standard. *Iniquity* is lawlessness.

32:5 Contrition does not save us. Its outworking can be seen in these verses: we acknowledge our sin to God rather than justifying ourselves. No longer do we try to hide anything from God, but we confess our transgressions to Him.

him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings.

3 Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise.

4 For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.

5 He loves righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as an heap: he lays up the depth in storehouses.

8 Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

9 For he spoke, and it was done; he com-

manded, and it stood fast.

10 The LORD brings the counsel of the heathen to nought: he makes the devices of the people of none effect.

11 The counsel of the LORD stands for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he has chosen for his own inheritance.

13 The LORD looks from heaven; he beholds all the sons of men.

14 From the place of his habitation he looks upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

15 He fashions their hearts alike; he considers all their works.

16 There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not de-

32:9 Differences between men and animals. The Bible tells us that animals are created “without understanding.” Human beings are different from animals. We are made in God’s “image.” As human beings, we are aware of our “being.” God is “I AM,” and we know that “we are.” We have understanding that we exist.

Among other unique characteristics, we have an innate ability to appreciate God’s creation. What animal gazes with awe at a sunset, or at the magnificence of the Grand Canyon? What animal obtains joy from the sounds of music or takes the time to form itself into an orchestra to create music? What animal among the beasts sets up court systems and apportions justice to its fellow creatures? We are moral beings.

While birds and other creatures have instincts to create (nests, etc.), we have the ability to uncover the hidden laws of electricity. We can utilize the law of aerodynamics to transport ourselves around the globe. We also have the God-given ability to appreciate the *value* of creation. We unearth the hidden treasures of gold, silver, diamonds, and oil and make use of them for our own benefit. Only humans have the unique ability to appreciate God for this incredible creation and to respond to His love.

33:6 Scientific facts in the Bible. The Scriptures say, “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them” (Genesis 2:1). The original Hebrew uses the past definite tense for the verb “finished,” indicating an action completed in the past, never again to occur. The creation was “finished”—once and for all. That is exactly what the First Law of Thermodynamics says. This law (often referred to as the Law of the Conservation of Energy and/or Mass) states that neither matter nor energy can be either created or destroyed. It was because of this Law that Sir Fred Hoyle’s “Steady-State” (or “Continuous Creation”) Theory was discarded. Hoyle stated that at points in the universe called “irtrons,” matter (or energy) was constantly being created. But, the First Law states just the opposite. Indeed, there is no “creation” ongoing today. It is “finished” exactly as the Bible states.

33:8 Awe for the Creator. “Science can only be created by those who are thoroughly imbued with the aspiration toward truth and understanding. This source of feeling, however, springs from the sphere of religion. To this there also belongs the faith in the possibility that the regulations valid for the world of existence are rational, that is, comprehensible to reason. I cannot conceive of a genuine scientist without that profound faith.” *Albert Einstein*

Sir John Frederick Herschel, an English astronomer who discovered over 500 stars, stated: “All

livered by much strength.

17 An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.

18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

19 To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

20 Our soul waits for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.

21 For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

22 Let your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in you.

PSALM 34

I WILL bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the LORD encamps round about them that fear him, and delivers them.

8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusts in him.

9 O fear the LORD, you his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

human discoveries seem to be made only for the purpose of confirming more and more strongly the truths that come from on high and are contained in the Sacred Writings." His father, *Sir William Herschel*, also a renowned astronomer, insisted, "The undevout astronomer must be mad." See also Psalm 25:14 footnote.

"In antiquity and in what is called the Dark Ages, men did not know what they now know about humanity and the cosmos. They did not know the lock but they possessed the key, which is God. Now many have excellent descriptions of the lock, but they have lost the key. The proper solution is union between religion and science. We should be owners of the lock *and* the key. The fact is that as science advances, it discovers what was said thousands of years ago in the Bible." *Richard Wurmbbrand, Proofs of God's Existence*

"Calvin said that the Bible—God's special revelation—was spectacles that we must put on if we are to correctly read the book of nature—God's revelation in creation. Unfortunately, between the beginning of science and our day, many scientists have discarded these glasses, and many distortions have followed." *D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?*

33:12 The source of a nation's blessings. In Leviticus 26:1–13, God promises Israel many wonderful blessings if they would simply obey Him: The rain would come in due season; the land would yield its harvest and the trees would yield their fruit; their food would satisfy them; they would have peace and safety in the land (no violence), and they would prevail over their enemies. Truly, blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

"Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness, and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God... What a Eutopia, what a Paradise would this region be." *John Adams*

"If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity." *Daniel Webster*

34:2 The proud are not glad to hear a soul boast in the Lord. Try telling a proud unsaved person about an obvious answer to prayer, and watch him try to explain it away as coincidence. It is a humble heart that can hear a boast about God.

10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

11 Come, you children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

12 What man is he that desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good?

13 Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking guile.

14 **Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.**

15 **The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.**

16 **The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**

17 The righteous cry, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

18 **The LORD is near unto them that are of a broken heart; and saves such as be of a contrite spirit.**

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

20 He keeps all his bones: not one of them is broken.

21 Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

22 The LORD redeems the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

PSALM 35

PLEAD my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.

2 Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for my help.

3 Draw out also the spear, and stop the

way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am your salvation.

4 Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt.

5 Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase them.

6 Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them.

7 For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul.

8 Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he has hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall.

9 And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

10 All my bones shall say, LORD, who is like unto you, who delivers the poor from him that is too strong for him, yes, the poor and the needy from him that spoils him?

11 False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.

12 They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul.

13 But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into my own bosom.

14 I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourns for his mother.

15 But in my adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: yes, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me,

34:8 See John 17:3 footnote, "Experiential Faith."

34:8,9 The goodness of God cannot be separated from the fear of the Lord. Those who maintain that it is "the goodness of God" that leads to repentance, and therefore we need only speak of His goodness, need to study the context of Romans 2:3–11.

34:20 Messianic prophecy: This was fulfilled in John 19:33.

35:13 It is wise to make fasting a way of life. Missing a meal on a regular basis will help you to keep your appetite in check. It will also put a joyful thanksgiving in your heart every time you sit down to a meal.

and ceased not:

16 With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth.

17 Lord, how long will you look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions.

18 I will give you thanks in the great congregation: I will praise you among much people.

19 Let not them that are my enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause.

I remember two things: I am a great sinner and I have a great Savior; and I don't suppose an old slave trader needs to remember much more than that.

JOHN NEWTON

20 For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land.

21 Yes, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye has seen it.

22 This you have seen, O LORD: keep not silence: O Lord, be not far from me.

23 Stir up yourself, and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord.

24 Judge me, O LORD my God, according to your righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me.

25 Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so would we have it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up.

26 Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at my hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonor that magnify themselves against me.

27 Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favor my righteous cause: yes, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which has pleasure in the pros-

perity of his servant.

28 And my tongue shall speak of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.

PSALM 36

THE transgression of the wicked says within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

2 For he flatters himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.

3 The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he has left off to be wise, and to do good.

4 He devises mischief upon his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he abhors not evil.

5 Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and your faithfulness reaches unto the clouds.

6 Your righteousness is like the great mountains; your judgments are a great deep: O LORD, you preserve man and beast.

7 How excellent is your lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of your wings.

8 They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of your house; and you shall make them drink of the river of your pleasures.

9 For with you is the fountain of life: in your light shall we see light.

10 O continue your lovingkindness unto them that know you; and your righteousness to the upright in heart.

11 Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me.

12 There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise.

PSALM 37

FRET not yourself because of evildoers, neither be envious against the workers of iniquity.

2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shall you dwell in the land, and verily you shall be fed.

4 Delight yourself also in the LORD: and he shall give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

6 And he shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your judgment as the noonday.

7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not yourself because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked devices to pass.

8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not yourself in any wise to do evil.

9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yes, you shall diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

12 The wicked plots against the just, and gnashes upon him with his teeth.

13 The LORD shall laugh at him: for he sees that his day is coming.

14 The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.

15 Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

16 A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked.

17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholds the righteous.

18 The LORD knows the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.

19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

20 But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.

21 The wicked borrows, and pays not again: but the righteous show mercy, and gives.

22 For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delights in his way.

24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

26 He is ever merciful, and lends; and his seed is blessed.

27 Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.

28 For the LORD loves judgment, and forsakes not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

29 The righteous shall inherit the land,

37:4 Desires of the heart. What are our desires? What do we want most in life? Do we desire above all things to have a better paying job, a bigger house, thicker carpet, a superior car, and more money? Are we controlled by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life? Or have we been transformed from the way of this world by "the renewing of [our] mind" (Romans 12:2), that we may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God? Are our desires now in line with God's desires? Are we above all things "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9)? If we delight ourselves in the Lord, the desires of our heart will match His—and those are the desires He will grant.

37:9 Does the reference to the wicked being "cut off" mean that they are annihilated? "If it did, then the Messiah would have been annihilated when He died, since the same word (*karath*) is used of the death of the Messiah (in Daniel 9:26)." *Norman Geisler and Thomas Howe, When Critics Ask*

and dwell therein for ever.

30 *The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of judgment.*

31 *The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.*

32 The wicked watches the righteous, and seeks to slay him.

33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.

34 Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt you to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.

35 I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

36 Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yes, I sought him, but he could not be found.

37 Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.

38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.

39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.

40 And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

PSALM 38

OLORD, rebuke me not in your wrath: neither chasten me in your hot displeasure.

2 For your arrows stick fast in me, and your hand presses me sore.

3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of your anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin.

4 For my iniquities are gone over my head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me.

5 My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness.

6 I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.

7 For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease: and there is no soundness in my flesh.

8 I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart.

9 Lord, all my desire is before you; and my groaning is not hid from you.

10 My heart pants, my strength fails me: as for the light of my eyes, it also is gone from me.

11 My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off.

12 They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long.

13 But I, as a deaf man, heard not; and I was as a dumb man that opens not his mouth.

14 Thus I was as a man that hears not, and in whose mouth are no reproofs.

15 For in you, O LORD, do I hope: you will hear, O Lord my God.

16 For I said, Hear me, lest otherwise they should rejoice over me: when my foot slips, they magnify themselves against me.

17 For I am ready to halt, and my sorrow is continually before me.

18 For I will declare my iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.

19 But my enemies are lively, and they are strong: and they that hate me wrong-

37:30,31 When we share the gospel, we speak the wisdom of God in Christ and of the justice of a holy God, revealed in a perfect Law.

38:11 **The Bible's fascinating facts.** If, down through the ages, scriptural principles had been applied during epidemics such as the Black Plague, millions of lives would have been saved. Long before man understood the principles of quarantine, the Bible spoke of the importance of isolating those who had a contagious disease and of disinfecting their houses. See Leviticus 13 and 14.

fully are multiplied.

20 They also that render evil for good are my adversaries; because I follow the thing that good is.

21 Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me.

22 Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation.

PSALM 39

I SAID, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.

2 I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred.

3 *My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spoke I with my tongue,*

4 *LORD, make me to know my end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am.*

5 Behold, you have made my days as an handbreadth; and my age is as nothing before you: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.

6 Surely every man walks in a vain show: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heaps up riches, and knows not who shall gather them.

7 And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in you.

8 Deliver me from all my transgressions: make me not the reproach of the foolish.

9 I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because you did it.

10 Remove your stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of your hand.

11 When you with rebukes do correct man for iniquity, you make his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah.

12 Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not your peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with you, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.

13 O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.

PSALM 40

I WAITED patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

2 *He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.*

3 *And he has put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.*

4 Blessed is that man that makes the LORD his trust, and respects not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

5 Many, O LORD my God, are your wonderful works which you have done, and your thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto you: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire; my ears have you opened: burnt offering and sin offering have you not required.

7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,

8 *I delight to do your will, O my God: yes, your law is within my heart.*

9 *I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, you know.*

10 I have not hid your righteousness within my heart; I have declared your faithfulness and your salvation: I have not concealed your lovingkindness and your truth from the great congregation.

11 Withhold not your tender mercies

40:7-9 This is a direct reference to the Messiah (see Hebrews 10:7). Jesus preached righteousness because God's Law was within His heart. When God's Law is written in our hearts, we will delight to do His will and will proclaim the good news of righteousness. We do this by preaching "the righteousness which is of the Law" (Romans 10:5). This will show men that they have sinned, and therefore need a Savior. See Romans 3:19,20.

from me, O LORD: let your lovingkindness and your truth continually preserve me.

12 For innumerable evils have compassed me about: my iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of my head: therefore my heart fails me.

13 Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me: O LORD, make haste to help me.

14 Let them be ashamed and confounded together that seek after my soul to destroy it; let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil.

15 Let them be desolate for a reward of their shame that say unto me, Aha, aha.

16 Let all those that seek you rejoice and be glad in you: let such as love your salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.

17 But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinks upon me: you are my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

PSALM 41

BLESSED is he that considers the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

2 The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and you will not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.

3 The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: you will make all his bed in his sickness.

4 I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against you.

5 My enemies speak evil of me, When shall he die, and his name perish?

6 And if he come to see me, he speaks vanity: his heart gathers iniquity to itself; when he goes abroad, he tells it.

7 All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt.

8 An evil disease, say they, cleaves fast unto him: and now that he lies he shall rise up no more.

9 Yes, my own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

10 But you, O LORD, be merciful unto me, and raise me up, that I may requite them.

11 By this I know that you favor me, because my enemy does not triumph over me.

12 And as for me, you uphold me in my integrity, and set me before your face for ever.

13 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

.....

Read how Spurgeon used the Law.

See Galatians 3:19 footnote.

.....

PSALM 42

AS the hart pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after you, O God.

2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

3 My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is your God?

4 When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holy-day.

5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? and why are you disquieted in me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

40:17 King David had great wealth and had his every need met, so he is speaking here in a spiritual sense. Describing himself as "poor and needy" shows he recognized his moral poverty and desperate need for God. See Luke 4:18 footnote.

41:9 **Messianic prophecy:** This was fulfilled in Mark 14:10.

41:4

How to Confront Sinners

When David sinned with Bathsheba, he broke *all* of the Ten Commandments. He coveted his neighbor's wife, lived a lie, stole her, committed adultery, murdered her husband, dishonored his parents, and thus broke the remaining four Commandments by dishonoring God. Therefore, the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to reprove him (2 Samuel 12:1–14).

There is great significance in the order in which the reproof came. Nathan gave David (the shepherd of Israel) a parable about something that David could understand—sheep. He began with the natural realm, rather than immediately exposing the king's sin. He told a story about a rich man who, instead of taking a sheep from his own flock, killed a poor man's pet lamb to feed a stranger.

David was indignant, and sat up on his high throne of self-righteousness. He revealed his knowledge of the Law by declaring that the guilty party must restore fourfold and must die for his crime. Nathan then exposed the king's sin of taking another man's "lamb," saying, "You are the man... Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in his sight?" When David cried, "I have sinned against the Lord," the prophet *then* gave him grace and said, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die."

Imagine if Nathan, fearful of rejection,

changed things around a little, and instead told David, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. However, there is something that is keeping you from enjoying this wonderful plan; it is called 'sin.'"

Imagine if he had glossed over the *personal nature* of David's sin, with a general reference to *all* men having sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. David's reaction may have been, "What *sin* are you talking about?" rather than to admit his terrible transgression. Think of it—why should he cry, "I have sinned against the Lord" at the sound of *that* message? Instead, he may have, in a sincere desire to experience this "wonderful plan," admitted that he, like all men, had sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

If David had not been made to *tremble* under the wrath of the Law, the prophet would have removed the very means of producing godly sorrow, which was so necessary for David's repentance. It is "godly sorrow" that produces repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). It was the weight of David's guilt that caused him to cry out, "I have sinned against the Lord." The Law caused him to labor and become heavy laden; it made him hunger and thirst for righteousness. It enlightened him as to the *serious* nature of sin as far as God was concerned.

6 O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember you from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.

7 Deep calls unto deep at the noise of your waterspouts: all your waves and your billows are gone over me.

8 Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the day time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

9 I will say unto God my rock, Why have you forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

10 As with a sword in my bones, my enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is your God?

11 Why are you cast down, O my soul? and why are you disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

PSALM 43

JUDGE me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.

2 For you are the God of my strength: why do you cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

3 O send out your light and your truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto your holy hill, and to your tabernacles.

4 Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yes, upon the harp will I praise you, O God my God.
 5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? and why are you disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

PSALM 44

WE have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work you did in their days, in the times of old.
 2 How you did drive out the heathen with your hand, and plant them; how you did afflict the people, and cast them out.
 3 For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but your right hand, and your arm, and the light of your countenance, because you had a favor unto them.
 4 You are my King, O God: command deliverances for Jacob.
 5 Through you will we push down our enemies: through your name will we tread them under that rise up against us.
 6 For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me.
 7 But you have saved us from our enemies, and have put them to shame that hated us.
 8 In God we boast all the day long, and praise your name for ever. Selah.
 9 But you have cast off, and put us to shame; and go not forth with our armies.
 10 You make us to turn back from the enemy: and they which hate us spoil for themselves.
 11 You have given us like sheep appointed for meat; and have scattered us among the heathen.
 12 You sell your people for nought, and

do not increase your wealth by their price.
 13 You make us a reproach to our neighbors, a scorn and a derision to them that are round about us.

14 You make us a byword among the heathen, a shaking of the head among the people.

15 My confusion is continually before me, and the shame of my face has covered me,

16 For the voice of him that reproaches and blasphemes; by reason of the enemy and avenger.

17 All this is come upon us; yet have we not forgotten you, neither have we dealt falsely in your covenant.

18 Our heart is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from your way;

19 Though you have sore broken us in the place of dragons, and covered us with the shadow of death.

20 If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god;

21 Shall not God search this out? for he knows the secrets of the heart.

22 Yes, for your sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.

23 Awake, why do you sleep, O Lord? arise, cast us not off for ever.

24 Why do you hide your face, and forget our affliction and our oppression?

25 For our soul is bowed down to the dust: our belly cleaves unto the earth.

26 Arise for our help, and redeem us for your mercies' sake.

PSALM 45

MY heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

44:21 It is so easy to say, "God sees the heart." Think for a moment how incredible God must be to be able to search the thoughts of even one person. He sees the motives, the desires, and the deepest secrets. Sometimes our thoughts are so numerous that even we have trouble tracking them. Yet God sees the thoughts of every living person on this earth. This can either be a great comfort or a great terror, depending on whether or not our sins are forgiven.

2 You are fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into your lips: therefore God has blessed you for ever.

3 Gird your sword upon your thigh, O most mighty, with your glory and your majesty.

4 And in your majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and your right hand shall teach you terrible things.

5 Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the people fall under you.

6 Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of your kingdom is a right sceptre.

A man can no more possess a private religion than he can possess a private sun and moon.

G. K. CHESTERTON

7 You love righteousness, and hate wickedness: therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

8 All your garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made you glad.

9 Kings' daughters were among your honorable women: upon your right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir.

10 Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear; forget also your own people, and your father's house;

11 So shall the king greatly desire your beauty: for he is your Lord; and worship him.

12 And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall entreat your favor.

13 The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.

14 She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto you.

15 With gladness and rejoicing shall they

be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace.

16 Instead of your fathers shall be your children, whom you may make princes in all the earth.

17 I will make your name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise you for ever and ever.

PSALM 46

GOD is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he has made in the earth.

9 He makes wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and cuts the spear in sunder; he burns the chariot in the fire.

10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

PSALM 47

CLAP your hands, all you people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

2 For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.

3 He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet.

4 He shall choose our inheritance for us,

the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah.

5 God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

7 For God is the King of all the earth: sing praises with understanding.

8 God reigns over the heathen: God sits upon the throne of his holiness.

9 The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted.

PSALM 48

GREAT is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

3 God is known in her palaces for a refuge.

4 For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together.

5 They saw it, and so they marveled; they were troubled, and hasted away.

6 Fear took hold upon them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail.

7 You break the ships of Tarshish with an east wind.

8 As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever. Selah.

9 We have thought of your lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.

10 According to your name, O God, so is your praise unto the ends of the earth: your right hand is full of righteousness.

11 Let mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of your judgments.

12 Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof.

13 Mark well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that you may tell it to the generation following.

14 For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

PSALM 49

HEAR this, all you people; give ear, all you inhabitants of the world:

2 Both low and high, rich and poor, together.

3 My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

4 I will incline my ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp.

5 Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about?

6 *They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;*

7 *None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:*

8 *(For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceases for ever:)*

9 *That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption.*

10 *For he sees that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and*

49:7 **Grief for the lost.** Many of us have felt sorrow and grief over loved ones who don't know the salvation of God. If there was something we could do to save them, we would gladly do it. But often there is nothing we can do but pray—none of us can by any means redeem his brother or give God a ransom for him. We can however, trust God in the fact that One has already become a curse for Israel and for our loved ones. One has already provided the necessary redemption—He has paid the ransom for them. We inherit the promises of God through faith and patience, and therefore rest in the knowledge that God will answer our prayers for our loved ones.

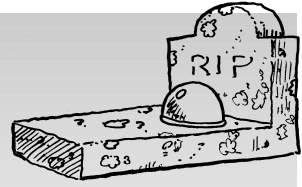
But our zeal for the salvation of sinners shouldn't be limited to our loved ones. Salvation in the heart of the Christian should cause him to love his neighbor as he loves himself.

49:7,8 The blood of Jesus Christ was the precious cost of our redemption, something that humanity could not provide. See 1 Peter 1:18,19.

QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS

49:15 “When you’re dead, you’re dead.”

What if you are wrong? What if God, Jesus, the prophets, the Jews, and Christians are right and you are wrong? If there is no afterlife, no Judgment Day, no heaven, and no hell, then God is unjust and each of the above is guilty of being a false witness. It means that Almighty God couldn’t care less about the fact that a man rapes a woman, then cuts her throat and is never brought to justice. If you are right, and there is no ultimate justice, you won’t even have the joy of saying, “I told you so.” However, if you are wrong, you will lose your soul and end up eternally damned. You are playing Russian roulette with a fully loaded gun. See Hebrews 9:27 footnote.



leave their wealth to others.

11 *Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.*

12 *Nevertheless man being in honor abides not: he is like the beasts that perish.*

13 *This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah.*

14 *Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.*

15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

16 Be not afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased;

17 For when he dies he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

18 Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise you, when you do well to yourself.

19 He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light.

20 Man that is in honor, and understands not, is like the beasts that perish.

PSALM 50

THE mighty God, even the LORD, has spoken, and called the earth from the

rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.

2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shined.

3 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

4 He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

5 Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

6 And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.

7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, even your God.

8 I will not reprove you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings, to have been continually before me.

9 I will take no bullock out of your house, nor he goats out of your folds.

10 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

11 I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you: for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof.

13 Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

49:17 “When we die we leave behind all that we have, and take with us all that we are.” *Chapel of the Air*

14 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay your vows unto the most High:

15 **And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.**

16 But unto the wicked God says, What have you to do to declare my statutes, or that you should take my covenant in your mouth?

17 Seeing you hate instruction, and cast my words behind you.

18 When you saw a thief, then you consented with him, and have been partaker with adulterers.

19 You give your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit.

20 You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son.

21 These things have you done, and I kept silence; you thought that I was altogether such an one as yourself: but I will reprove you, and set them in order before your eyes.

22 **Now consider this, you that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.**

23 **Whoso offers praise glorifies me: and to him that orders his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God.**

PSALM 51

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, according to your lovingkindness:

according unto the multitude of your tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done this evil in your sight: that you might be justified when you speak, and be clear when you judge.

5 Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

6 Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part you shall make me to know wisdom.

7 Purge 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; that the bones which you have broken may 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 right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from your presence; and take not your holy spirit from me.

12 Restore unto me the joy of your salvation; and uphold me with your free spirit.

13 Then will I teach transgressors your

50:16 Verses 16–23 contain a fearful word for a godless world that delights in entertainment glorifying theft, violence, adultery, and hatred. They assume that heaven's silence is heaven's sanction. God threatens fearful wrath, then offers salvation to those who will listen. This is the biblical order of gospel proclamation—Law before grace.

51:1–4 When a sinner is ready for salvation, he exhibits personal responsibility for his sins. In these four verses David uses the words *me*, *my*, and *I* ten times in reference to his sins. See also Luke 15:21 footnote.

51:6 Civil law can search your house. It can search your car and even your person, but it cannot search the heart. Civil law cannot see human thoughts. God's Law, however, searches the inward parts. Like ten hungry bloodhounds, it chases the scent of injustice. It will pursue the guilty criminal until he is brought to justice. There is only one way for the ten ravenous hounds to leave the trail: sinners must cross over a "river." There is a river of blood that flows from Calvary's cross. Only the blood of Jesus Christ satisfies the Law's insatiable appetite for righteousness. See Hebrews 9:22.

51:7 "Direct my thoughts, words, and work. Wash away my sins in the immaculate Blood of the Lamb, and purge my heart by Thy Holy Spirit. . . Daily frame me more and more into the likeness of Thy Son Jesus Christ." *George Washington*, in his prayer book