

Part 1 – Blessed is the Justified and Sanctified

In part 1 we learned how David put his trust in the Lord (YHVH), even in very difficult times when he needed help very quickly. Such as in his younger years when Saul (the king of Israel at the time) was constantly chasing after him in the wilderness, literally trying to kill him. And, likewise, the Devil (Satan) is constantly ‘chasing after’ God’s faithful servants still today. And he too is trying to ‘kill’ us, albeit it’s the spiritual death of our soul that he’s after, for he wants us to apostatize from the true God Almighty (YHVH) and worship him (which will cause the death of our soul). And he uses many ‘nets’ (snares, tricks) to do this - such as pride, lust, greed and so forth. So, we must be on (and remain on) guard and continue to (as David did) look to our Heavenly Father for help seeing these ‘nets’, and learning how to avoid them. That’s why it’s so critical to study God’s Word (the Bible), *with understanding*. Because, when we’re in a difficult situation, we must be able to discipline our heart *not* to be afraid and to think about where in God’s Word we’re advised on how to handle the situation we’re in. When we do so, the Holy Spirit will give us the understanding of what we should (or should not) do and what we should (or should not) say. He’ll *always* help us out of our troubles, so long as we continue to trust in Him and strive to obey His Word regardless of our emotions, for His Word is like a strong Rock. And when we build our ‘house’ (heart and mind) upon His Word (with trust and faith in it) then we will *never* be shaken from our faith in Jesus Christ (Mth 7:24-27). And we should also be careful to give our Heavenly Father the praise for His faithfulness in helping us (for He is faithful and righteous to always help us when we remain faithful to Him) because He *so very* much deserves it. Being thankful also helps us to keep our soul from lusting after things that are not good for us. For when we truly appreciate what we do have, we won’t covet for more (Col 3:5). While many people trust in ‘things’ of this world to protect them, the truth is that the only ‘safe place’ or ‘thing’ to trust in is our Heavenly Father – His Word and the guidance of His Holy Spirit. For that’s the *only* thing that can help us in *all* situations, no matter how difficult they are.

In part 2 we learned that David ‘committed’ his spirit into the hands of the Lord (YHVH) by *trusting* Him with *all* his heart, mind and soul. David did not waver from his faith in the Lord nor did he ever apostatize and worship other gods or idols. And he also truly believed in the coming of the Messiah (Jesus Christ), which is what redeemed his soul (as well as ours) because Jesus Christ’s blood shed atones for the sins of *all* mankind *once and for all* (Heb 10:10). When we truly trust in our Heavenly Father (and the Messiah He sent to save us, Jesus Christ) we indeed ‘deposit’ our soul into the care (hands) of the one and only true God - who is the *only* One who can keep our soul safe from spiritual death, as well as the spiritual destroyer, Satan. This means not only can He free us (and keep us safe from) Satan’s methods of deceiving us into sinning willfully and habitually (rebellious against God), but He also gives us the truth we need to keep us safe from deception, so we can live forever. This is why David went on to say that he hated those who regard (protect and guard) lying vanities, which can even mean false gods and idols; meaning, all things that are evil. And we learned it is a righteous thing for us to hate evil too. Because if we don’t hate evil (and refuse to participate in it) then we love evil. And that means we cannot obtain eternal life because those who love evil also love Satan – the one who is rebelling against God and causing His children to be fooled into sinning, which destroys their

own soul. So, if you love evil (Satan) you cannot love God (righteousness). And if you don't love God, you will refuse the truth (including the Messiah, Jesus Christ) – which also means you cannot have eternal life, because the *only* way we can have eternal life is by knowing and understanding the *one and only true* God Almighty and His Son, Jesus Christ (John 14:6, 17:3). This is why it's ever so important to trust in the Lord (God's Word) and His Holy Spirit, for *that's* what gives us the truth (knowledge of who God and Jesus Christ is), which in turn gives us eternal life.

In part 3 we learned how David praised God for not allowing his enemies to kill him, even though there were plenty of opportunities for that to happen over the course of his life. Instead, the Lord continued to deliver David over and over, even though Saul chased him in the wilderness *for over a decade*, trying to kill him. And even though he often fought the Philistines as well, even when he was on the run from Saul, the Lord still delivered him. And we also saw David explain the pain he felt when he was ostracized by neighbors and acquaintances; being a friend of David could be dangerous at the time he was on the run from Saul (the king of Israel), so many people separated themselves from David. Naturally, this was painful for David, as was being separated from his family, friends and his nation. And sometimes he even wondered if God was mad at him; yet, because the Lord kept blessing his military fights, David finally realized that: even though he was having a lot of hard times, the Lord really was with him and really was blessing him. Therefore, the hard times David went through are what actually helped his faith in the Lord (YHWH) grow the most. And we should remember this because, it's this way in our life too. When times are good, we have a tendency to forget to thank and praise the Lord (YHWH) for His blessings and continue to trust in Him. But when times are bad, we tend to seek Him harder and that's what can help us learn to trust Him more. So, while we all like the 'good times', they can be the most dangerous of times if we don't stay spiritually on guard. And we should not be sad, or upset, when hard times come because they are actually opportunities to grow in faith, as well as the chance to get stronger in learning to do what's right and refusing to do what's wrong. As James 1 says, the testing of our faith helps us to learn to be patient, which is what helps us learn to be spiritually mature, which is also how we learn to put on the Gospel armor (Eph 6) and other fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5).

In part 4 we learned how David trusted in the Lord (YHWH) because He is our creator; both of our soul and also our flesh body. While our parents are the ones who God uses to bring us into this world through a flesh body, it's the Lord (YHWH) – our Creator – who puts our soul into the flesh when it's first conceived and then forms us into a human being while we're in our mother's womb. David well understood this, and that is why he humbly submitted all the affairs of his life into the Father's hand, because there is *no one* better to trust our life (flesh life and our soul) with. He alone can protect us from evil and make His face to "shine" upon us by giving us blessings; first and foremost, by giving us peace of mind that comes from being at peace with our Creator. As such, when we continue to seek, serve, obey, love, worship and cleave to Him with *all* our heart mind and soul, He continues to help us grow spiritually mature. And many times, this is done through the hard times that come in life. Our faith often grows the *most* as we witness how our Heavenly Father helps us through *all* the hard times in our life, as David learned

so well, for he had many of them. So, it does not matter how many lying lips come against us (nor anything else), the Lord is able to put them to shame, and disappoint them, by punishing the wicked while protecting and blessing us who remain faithful servants to Him.

In part 5 we learned how great the Lord's goodness is for *those who fear Him*. Not only does He promise eternal life, and being allowed to reign with Jesus Christ when He returns, but the Lord (YHVH) sheds His goodness upon us even *now*, when we fear (and revere) Him. And that's because He gives us a spiritual place to flee to when we trust in Him. That 'secret place' is within our own soul and is the peace that His presence (His Holy Spirit) gives to us as He comforts and strengthens our heart and mind during all our times of trouble. But again, this is only when we trust in Him. And this 'secret place' of refuge hides us from all lying tongues, as well as all other forms of persecution; simply because, when we trust in Him (and bind our soul to Him through consistent studying of His Word), we won't be afraid nor upset when the hard times come, no matter how strong the flood of lies that are poured upon us. And David well knew about troubling times, for his life (especially his early life) was full of them. Thus, in this Psalm David said that his first thought was to think he was cut off from the Lord when hard times came. But, as he grew and matured through those hard times, he realized the Lord was indeed with him and was simply developing him into a strong servant for the Lord. David's faith grew the *most* during those hard times, as it is for us, so long as we continue to trust in our Heavenly Father no matter what comes our way. David ended this beautiful Psalm by calling all the 'saints' (those who remain faithful to Him) to love the Lord (YHVH) because He always preserves (guards) those who are faithful to Him, while 'rewarding' (with punishment) the wicked who do not repent and change from their evil ways. And he also reminded us to be of good courage no matter what comes our way, because the Lord (YHVH) *will* strengthen our heart when we hope in Him. Meaning, when we hope in His promises (meaning we also must *know* His Word), our heart is naturally strengthened because fear vanishes when we trust in what His Word promises. As we grow and mature, like David did, through all the hard times we go through, we learn to trust in our Heavenly Father no matter what comes *because* we've experienced His great mercy and grace time and time again. And this is what we need in order to make it through all the hard times *still yet to come*, even through the hardest of times, the 'great' tribulation of the antichrist, when Satan and his fallen angels are cast to the earth to deceive the world into worshipping them as the 'Savior' and his angels who have come to 'save' us from all our troubles.

We now come to a Psalm that's a continuation of the last Psalm (31), in that it's also written 'in view' of Psalm 20 – which is a Psalm that spoke about the 'great tribulation' (of the antichrist, when Satan is on earth pretending to be the 'savior' of mankind) as well as the atonement we can obtain through faith in Jesus Christ. But, importantly, **it's also a 'Mas'-chil' Psalm**. It's actually the first of thirteen (32, 42, 44, 45, 52, 53, 54, 55, 74, 78, 88 and 142) – some in each Book, except Book 5 (Deut. Book). But, what does this mean? Apx. 65 XI tells us **it's an 'Understanding' or "Instruction' Psalm** for public use. Unlike the "Michtam" Psalms (which are all by David) these are by various authors, albeit six are by David, including this Psalm. Apx. 65 also tells us that 'Maschil' means *to look at, scrutinize, to look well into anything* (1 Sam 18:30); hence the noun will mean *understanding arising from deep consideration* (Prov 13:15,

Neh 8:8). Thus, since this Psalm is the first ‘Maschil’ Psalm, it ***gives us the basis of all true instruction and understanding***. And we will soon find out why...

Psalm 32

1 A Psalm of David, Mas'-chil.

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

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

The book of Psalms also begins with the word ‘blessed’ when it tells us that ***blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful*** (Ps 1:1). The word ‘**blessed**’ in verses 1-2 here in Psalm 32 is the same as in Psalm 1, which is the Hebrew word ‘*esher*’ (#835), which means ***happiness***, or ***how happy!*** In Mth 5, when Jesus is giving us the ‘beautitudes’ He also uses the word ‘blessed’, which has a similar meaning in the Greek: ***supremely blest***; by extension, ***fortunate*** or ***well off*** (#3107). So, if we want to be happy and well off, we should take heed to what we are ‘instructed’ here in this Psalm (yea, in all of God’s Word). And verse 1 points out that the first thing that makes us happy is to have our transgression forgiven and our sin covered. Verse 2 continues on with the thought to say that those whose iniquity is not imputed are also blessed, as well as those in whose spirit there is not guile. However, in these verses there are several words that *appear* to be similar in meaning, such as: ‘transgression’, ‘sin’, and ‘iniquity’... so what exactly do they mean? Let’s look at their Hebrew meaning (along with some additional words from these verses) to see if we can glean a better understanding of what we need to have forgiven, covered and not imputed, so we know how to be ‘happy’...

First off, if you use the PC Bible Study program, beware that it’s not always correct. So, if you look up words with this program, and it does not make sense, then *always* double check it with a **physical Strong’s Concordance**. Some of these words in the PC Bible program show that they are #9999 - which means they are not in the original manuscripts – but that is wrong. If you look them up in a physical *Strong’s Concordance* (which you should do - *double check* these studies, as well as *all other* studies you read or listen to), you’ll see they are as follows...

- ‘**TRANSGRESSION**’ is *pesha’* (#6588), which means ***a revolt*** (national, moral or religious). It’s been translated as - rebellion, sin, transgression, trespass.
 - It comes from *pasha’* (#6586), a primitive root which means ***to break away*** (from just authority), i.e. ***trespass, apostatize, quarrel***. It’s been translated as - offend, rebel, revolt, transgress (-ion, -or).
- ‘**FORGIVEN**’ is *nasa’* (#5375), a primitive root that means: ***to lift***, in a great variety of applications, literal and figurative, absol. and rel.
- ‘**SIN**’ is *chata’ah* (#2401) which means ***an offence, or a sacrifice for it***.
 - It comes from *chet’* (#2399), which means ***a crime*** or its penalty.

- It comes from *chata'* (#2398), a primitive root that means **to miss**; hence (figuratively and generally) **to sin**; by inference, **to forfeit, lack, expiate, repent**, (causatively) **lead astray, condemn**.
- ‘COVERED’ is *kacah* (#3680), a primitive root that means **to plump**, i.e. **fill up hollows**; by implication, **to cover** (for clothing or secrecy):
- ‘IMPUTETH’ is *chashab* (#2803), a primitive root that means **to plait** or **interpenetrate**, i.e. (literally) **to weave** or (gen.) **to fabricate**; figuratively, **to plot** or **contrive** (usually in a malicious sense); hence (from the mental effort) **to think, regard, value, compute**.
- ‘INIQUITY’ is *`avon* (#5771) which means **perversity**, i.e. (moral) **evil**
- ‘GUILE’ is *remiyah* (#7423) which means **remissness** (carelessness) or **treachery**
- It comes from *ramah* (#7411), a primitive root that means **to hurl**; specifically, **to shoot**; figuratively, **to delude** or **betray** (as if causing to fall):

So, essentially ‘transgression’ means a revolt (rebellion) which happens when we break away from following God’s Word (and His Laws in it) and follow our own ‘heart’ (carnal mind) and/or the ‘ways of the world’, which are *not* of the Father but of the Devil, a.k.a. Satan (1 John 2:15-17). And ‘sin’ is an actual crime or offense, which means breaking God’s Laws. And ‘iniquity’ is evil or perverseness (corruption); meaning *to allowing our sinful (carnal) nature to control us so that we rebel against God in habitually breaking His laws without caring that we are doing so.*

So, (1) ‘**transgression**’ is **being in apostasy, or rebelling against God**, while (2) ‘**sin**’ is **breaking His Laws** and (3) ‘**iniquity**’ is **being a morally evil person**; having a perverse (or evil) spirit thus *refers to what goes on in someone’s heart and mind*. So, these three things cover (1) breaking God’s Laws in our heart and mind, (2) breaking God’s Laws in our words and/or actions and (3) actually rebelling against the Lord (YHVH), which means you reject His chastisements and will not submit yourself to His Law no matter what. You sin habitually, meaning, *as a lifestyle*.

So, when David says that happy is the man (or woman) whose transgression (apostasy, rebellion against God) is forgiven (which means to have his rebelliousness ‘lifted’, taken away) he is saying that it’s a blessing to stop rebelling against the Lord (YHVH). In other words, *ceasing to rebel against our Heavenly Father (YHVH) is what will make us truly happy*. Why? Because, being at peace with our Creator is the *only* thing that brings peace of mind and heart. And we cannot be at peace with Him when we are rebelling against Him. As Heb 11:6 says, *without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*. The word ‘**diligently**’ here is #1567 and means to **search out**, to **crave** or **demand**. And so, coming to the realization that God is **real** - and that He has authority over **all** His creation (even us) - is truly the first step to repentance. We *must* have at *true* change of heart and mind. As verse 2 in this Psalm (32) said, we cannot have any guile in our spirit if we want to have our transgression forgiven, sins covered and iniquity not imputed (remembered). And recall that the word ‘guile’ (#7423) means *remissness* or *treachery*. While you likely know that treachery is the violation of allegiance or of faith and confidence (betrayal), what’s likely less known is that ‘remissness’ means. It is *to be negligent* in the performance of

work or duty (careless) or *to show neglect or inattention*. And this is important because we cannot have any ‘guile’ in our spirit when we repent. The reason, of course, is because trying to fool God into thinking you are repenting *defeats the purpose of repenting*. And **we can’t fool God because He can read our heart and mind**, 1 Chron 28:9, 1 Kings 8:39, Ps 7:9, Ps 11:4-5, Prov 17:3, Ps 44:20-21, Ps 94:11, Jer 16:17, Jer 17:9-10, Matt 9:4, Matt 12:25, Luke 5:22, Luke 6:8, Luke 11:17, Luke 24:38, Acts 15:7-9, 1 Cor 3:20, Heb 4:12, 1 Thess 2:4, Rom 8:26-27, 1 John 3:20-21), even to the point of discerning our thoughts and intents of our heart (Heb 4:12).

Therefore, true repentance is much more than saying you believe in Jesus Christ and going to Church once a week. **Church is Not Christianity** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/212>] because Christianity is not a ‘religion’, *it’s reality*. And you must be willing to live ‘in reality’ to truly follow Jesus Christ. This means that you not only have to recognize that YHVH is the one and only true God, but you must also recognize that He alone is righteous; He is the God of truth (Deut 32:4). And once you realize that, you also have to realize that all of God’s children (including you) *have sinned, and come short of the glory of God* (Rom 3:23). And once you realize that, you must realize there is only ONE way to be reconciled to Him (only one way to have your sins, transgression and iniquity purged) and that is by accepting His Son, Jesus Christ, as your King and Savior (Rom 3:24).

As Jesus said in John 14:6, there’s *no other way* to obtain forgiveness from God but through *faith in Him*. And that is simply because God Himself came to earth, incarnated as Jesus Christ, to pay for our sins. So, *if you reject Jesus Christ, you are indeed rejecting God Himself*. As Jesus said in John 14:9, if we’ve seen Jesus Christ, then we have seen the Father. That’s because Jesus Christ **is** God in the flesh, as John 1:1,14, Heb 1:3, Col 1:15 and 2:19 declare. Learn more in the special study which explains (and documents) that the **Trinity** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1013>] is simply the fact that our Heavenly Father has a Body (Jesus Christ), Soul (the Father) and a Spirit (the Holy Spirit). As Jesus told us in John 4:23-24, God is a Spirit (which is why we must worship Him in our spirit – i.e. heart and mind – by putting truth into our soul), but He manifests Himself to us as Jesus Christ (which is also written in John 1:1,14). Learn more in the study on **Was Christ Here On Earth Before His Birth** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/448>].

In other words, our Heavenly Father loves us *so much*, He was willing to come to earth and live perfectly to show us ‘the way’ to live eternally. But, He was also willing to be *brutally* tortured, humiliated (even being spit upon and mocked) and die an *excruciatingly painful* death (crucifixion is one of the most painful ways to die) just to pay for our sin. But, this physical manifestation of His love for us is merely *an example of what He goes through* – inside His own soul – *when we sin for Him*. In other words, the physical pain Jesus Christ went through is only a *physical manifestation of all the inner pain we have caused our Heavenly Father for rebelling against Him*. He truly loves us. He created us and gave us wonderful things. And to have His children rebel against Him, *for no good (justifiable) reason*, hurts Him *deeply*. It caused Him as much pain to His soul as it caused Jesus Christ’s flesh body when He was beaten up and crucified for us. Learn more in the studies **How Much Does God Love Us**

[<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1344>] and **Jesus - Our Kinsman Redeemer** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1347>].

And we must realize all of this if we are going to truly stop rebelling against Him. For if we still have guile in our soul, then we will still find ways to legitimize our sin (to ourself) against Him; we won't submit our soul *completely* to Him (His Word). Remember, the word 'guile' can mean not only treachery (betrayal) but it also can mean 'remissness' which means *to be negligent in the performance of work or duty (careless) or to show neglect or inattention*. Thus, **if we are negligent to study His Word** (as He has commanded us in Isa 34:16 and 2 Tim 2:15, among other places) **we are still rebelling against Him** because we're refusing to learn of Him (Mth 11:29), which is a large part of how transgression, sin and iniquity (being a morally evil person) is purged. As it's written in Prov 16:6: ***By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.*** The only way we can get truth, is by consistently (daily) studying God's Word – for ourselves – with a sincere heart, and diligently learning to 'rightly divide' His Word; which means looking up the words in the original language to understand what's really being said. So, even when you read, or listen to, studies (or commentaries) you still need to do your own 'homework' and check out what's been stated to see – for yourself – if that is really true.

In short, we must truly have a change of heart, a change of mind (thought process) and a change of lifestyle *that is lasting*. It's easy to get on an emotional high and repent when we first hear of Jesus, but once the emotions of the 'altar call' wear off and you go back to your daily life, *you can't go back to begin the person you were before*. ***You have to be personally responsible to change your life from the inside out.*** You have to work, diligently and sincerely, each and every day, to study God's Word and understand it and obey it, *from the heart*. It's a change of mind, heart, lifestyle *that must be real – it can't be faked* and it truly is a change of life, *for your entire life*. Growing mature in God's Word *takes all of your life*. It's not a 'one time thing' and then you can go on your merry way and do whatever you want. You must willingly live your life to serve and obey the Lord (YHWH) and His Son, Jesus Christ, forever. As Jesus said in John 8:31-32: ***If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*** The word 'continue' here is *meno* (#3306), which means **to stay** (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy). We must **stay in the truth** (i.e. God's Word) **our entire life or else we're not sincerely following Him**. And, *not doing so*, is how we 'slip' back into our 'old life' of rebelling against God. By the way, the word 'continue' here (*meno* #3306) is the same word translated as 'abide' in John 15 [which you can study the entire chapter here with this link: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_John_and_epistle/239] and 1 John 2 [which you can study here as well: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_John_and_epistle/9].

So again, as Prov 16:6 says: *by mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil*. Thus, in order to have our morally evil (perverse/corrupt) spirit cleansed, we must not only obtain mercy from God (through a good repentance) but we must also put truth into our 'inward parts', meaning our heart (desires, emotions, intentions and motivations) and

mind (thought process). Because, if we don't learn how to please God (which we do by studying His Word and obeying it sincerely) then *our 'repentance' will be short lived*. As Jesus warned...

*21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but **he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.***

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matt 7:21-23

Jesus gives us a similar warning in the parable of the virgins in Mth 25. Many people who call themselves Christians really do not 'continue' (stay/abide) in His Word (as He said to in John 8) because they do not continue to study His Word nor strive to sincerely obey it, from the heart. **That** is why Jesus calls them in Mth 7:23 above, 'workers of iniquity'. They still have a morally evil (perverse, or corrupt) heart because they have not kept it clean (if they ever truly cleaned it in the first place) by *continuing* to study His Word, and taking it into their thought process (mind) and desires, emotions (heart, the carnal mind that causes us to want to sin) nor have they allowed His Word to change their intents and motivations. But, as Jesus said in John 4:24, we *must* worship God in our spirit by putting truth into it. And, as Ps 145:18 warns, the Lord (YHWH) is *only* close (nigh) to those who call upon Him *in truth*. If we call upon Him and still hold iniquity (corruption) in our heart, then He won't hear (or help) us (Ps 66:18). So, we must not only repent when we see our sins, but also learn of Him, by studying His Word sincerely and consistently. As Jesus said in John 17:19 we are sanctified (spiritually cleansed) *through truth*. He says the same thing in John 15:3. And when we are sincerely striving to study and obey His Word (Acts 5:30-32), He will give us His Holy Spirit to help us understand His Word (the truth) and learn how to obey it in our daily life (John 14:15-18, Deut 4:29-30, Romans 8, etc.).

And in Mth 13 and Lk 8, Jesus gives us a parable about a sower who sows seeds in the soil to explain the reasons why people don't 'continue' to study (and obey) God's Word. As Lk 8:15 says, those whose minds are 'good ground' *are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience*. [Learn more with the special study on: **The Rebellion** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1288>]. In other words, you have to be sincere when you are repenting because if you're only doing so half-heartedly, you won't 'stick with it'. You'll fall away from the Word of God and stop studying it daily, which is what causes us to fall away from the truth. You can go to Church all you want, and even study His Word all you want - but if you do not absorb what God's Word *truly* says (i.e. if you believe traditions of man, which pervert His Word) *then it won't do you any good*. As Jesus Himself said in John 17:3: **this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent** (John 17:3). 1 John 5:11-13 and 1 John 5:20 document this as well. And Paul also says...

7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

8 But unto them that are contentious, **and do not obey the truth**, but obey unrighteousness, ***indignation and wrath***,
Rom 2:7-8

Only those who study God's Word with understanding (they understand it for themselves and don't take other people's 'word' for what it says) will actually do it, *with patience*. Serving the Lord, Jesus Christ, is not like going to a fast-food restraint where you get a 'quick fix' of food that's terribly unhealthy for you. Instead, it's like planting a garden, *and having to work hard* to cultivate, and care for it, so you can harvest the fruit, *in its season*. You cannot get all your 'work' done in one day - by quickly repenting and believing in Jesus Christ - and then go 'play' (sin) all you want. It's a change of life. It's a change of heart. A change of mind, and truly a change of lifestyle too. You stop living for your lusts, pride, greed (and so forth) and learn to live for your Heavenly Father... because you love Him (1 Pt 4:1-2). Paul also sums it up rather well when he wrote, *for to be carnally minded is death; but **to be spiritually minded is life and peace*** (Rom 8:6). And, while we'll never be totally without sin in this flesh body, God expects us to daily (Lk 9:23) make an *honest* and *sincere* effort and putting off the sin inside our heart (our intentions, desires, feelings) and mind (thought process). We are to sincerely repent when we fall short and strive harder to stop that sin, *every day*. Otherwise, *we're only fooling ourselves*, because He sees when we have guile (deceit) in our heart. And what this also means is that **we must be willing to accept our punishment (chastisement) for our sins**. After all, chastisement is for our good because, afterwards it *yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby* (Heb 12:11). David was an excellent example of this, as we'll see later on in this great 'Maschil' Psalm of instruction and understanding.

Now, there is one more point to look at in these first two verses in Psalm 32. And, it's the fact that Paul quoted them in the book of Romans. And anytime we are studying the Old Testament, and see that it's quoted in the New - it's good to go to those Scriptures to see *why* they were quoting from it. And this works the other way around too. When you are studying in the New Testament, it's good to go to the Old Testament to see *why* the New Testament is quoting from those 'Old' Testament Scriptures. So, let's do so. We'll look at some verses before and after to help glean the context (subject) of the chapter, so we can understand why Paul quoted from these first two verses here...

1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?
2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.
3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham **believed** God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.
4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.
5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.
6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,
7 Saying, *Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.*

8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

10 **How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.**

11 And he received the sign of circumcision, **a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:**

12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

13 **For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.**

Rom 4:1-13

So, in this chapter, Paul is making a ‘case’ against those who clung to the ‘covenant of circumcision’ *of the flesh*, that God made with Abraham (and his seed) back in Genesis 17. And it is true, *before* Jesus Christ died for our sins (which did away with all carnal blood sacrifices and ordinances and rituals, *once and for all*, Heb 10:10) God *did* require all male children to be circumcised. In fact, He nearly killed Moses for not having done so to his children, when he was going back to Egypt to help God ‘free’ the children of Israel. It angered God that the man He had chosen to be His representative, had not even kept this physical covenant with his own children. So, Mose’s wife begrudgingly circumcised her sons for Moses, and the Lord (YHVH) was appeased (Ex 4:24-26). But, as Moses himself pointed when speaking to Israel, this was merely a *physical type* for what God *truly* wants us to do to our heart. As it is written in Deut 10:16, when Moses said to Israel: *Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.* And in Jer 4:4, the Lord said: *Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.* In other words, the covenant He made with Abraham merely was a ‘type’ (as were all the blood sacrifices) of what we are to do to our ‘carnal mind’ (our heart, the part of us that wants to sin). We are cut off our sinful thoughts and desires, just as a male was to have his flesh foreskin cut off. And, just as physical circumcision makes a male able to produce more children, so too are we able to produce much more *good* spiritual fruit (Gal 5:22-26) when we cut the sinful thoughts and desires out of our heart and mind.

But, over the years, people (even the priesthood) lost the true meaning of this covenant and began to think that circumcision of the flesh is what made them morally righteous - when *that’s not true at all*, because their hearts were not circumcised from evil. As Jesus taught in Mth 15 and Mk 7, we are spiritually *unclean* by the sin in our heart (evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness, Mark 7:21-22) and not by how well we keep our flesh body clean. While good hygiene does keep our flesh body healthy (as does circumcising the male’s flesh body part), *it does nothing for our heart*. As God said to Israel in Ezek 18:31: *Cast away from*

*you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and **make you a new heart and a new spirit:** for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*

So again, the point that Paul makes – and he quotes from David’s Psalm 32 here to prove – is that Abraham was *not* justified by his *physical* circumcision, but by **his faith in God’s Word** – i.e. what God literally told him. After all (as Paul points out) *the flesh ‘covenant of circumcision’ was given to Abraham in Genesis 17, which is **after** Abraham was **already justified by faith***, which was back in Genesis 15 (vs 6). So, Paul’s point is that Abraham was considered righteous in God’s eyes even **before** he circumcised himself and his children. He only circumcised himself and the males in his house (employees included) *because he believed God’s promises* (that he would have a child who would be his inheritor and their descendants would inherit the Promise Land, which did happen by the way). So, while Abraham was indeed ‘justified by faith’, **he also proved his faith by acting upon it**. Not only by circumcising his ‘house’ but also when God asked him to ‘sacrifice’ his only son by Sarah, Issac – who was the child ‘of the promise’ (Gen 17:21, 22:9-12).

So, physical circumcision does not count for anything. It’s only *the act of obedience that comes from believing in God’s Word* that matters. And *that’s* what David is saying too, in this Psalm 32:1-2. **Faith in God’s Word is what causes us to stop rebelling against Him** and faith is also what causes us to strive to learn of Him. Further, *faith is what causes us to strive to obey Him, sincerely, from the heart. Without faith, our actions of obedience are shallow*. In fact, they are full of guile (deceit). **We cannot sincerely follow God (Jesus Christ) without truly believing in Him**. Again, to quote Heb 11:6, where we’re told: ***without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him***. That’s what Abraham believed; it’s what David believed; it’s what Jesus Christ and the apostles believed – it’s what **all** men and women ‘of faith’ in the Lord (YHVH) have believed throughout all the history of this earth (Heb 11). And it is *still* what faithful followers of the Lord (YHVH) – and His Son, Jesus Christ – believe today. And if you **truly** believe in God’s Word, **you will act upon it**, as James so beautifully expresses...

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

*17 Even so faith, **if it hath not works, is dead, being alone**.*

*18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and **I will shew thee my faith by my works**.*

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

*22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and **by works was faith made perfect**?*

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

James 2:17-26

What James is so beautifully pointing out, is that it's easy to say you have faith (as so many do today) *but* if your works are *not* obedient to God's Word, then you really don't have faith. As Jesus said in Matt 7:20, *by their fruits ye shall know them*. This was right before He warned that not everyone who claimed to follow Him would be accepted into the Kingdom, but only those who actually obey Him will be (Mth 7:21-23). And then He subsequently gave a parable which likened those who obey Him to a wise man will build his home on a rock (i.e. Jesus Christ) that cannot be moved by the wind and rain (i.e. lies and deception); while those who don't obey Him are like a fool who builds his home on the sand, which gets washed out and falls down when the storms come (Mth 7:24-27). So, faith and works go 'hand in hand'. You can try and fake 'faith' and you can try to fake 'good works'. But *God knows your heart and your actions will prove whether or not you truly have faith... or if you're a fake* - simply if you **actually obey** the Lord (YHVH)... **or not**.

So, in these first two verses of this 'Maschil' Psalm 32 – that gives us understanding and instruction – we find *the foundation* for how to overcome the 'great tribulation' *and* how to be atoned by the blood of Jesus Christ (which is what Ps 20 taught us). ***And it all rests upon faith in the blood of Jesus Christ***. For Jesus' blood was shed so that all our transgressions (rebellious), sin (breaking God's Laws) and iniquity (our moral corruption) **can be forgiven** – and importantly – **cleansed as well...** *when we truly have faith in God's Word and His Son, Jesus Christ*. And that's because, **if** we have faith, **we will** study His Word **and** strive to obey it with all our heart, mind, soul and strength (Dt 4:29, Mk 12:30). And, as we do this, we learn to be (and remain) humble because, truly, ***the only good 'thing' in us is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit*** (Ps 16:2). So, once we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and King, our duty is to study His Word (Mth 11:29) so the Holy Spirit can help us put off the 'old man' (our carnal mind, which is the part of us that wants to sin, Rom 8) and put on the 'new man' which is created into the image of God's righteousness and holiness (Eph 4:24). So, while *our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day* (2 Cor 4:16) by knowledge of Jesus Christ (Col 3:10). And thus, peace of mind is what makes us truly 'blessed' – or happy – because it's the *only* thing that gives us peace with our Creator, which is the *only* thing that brings peace to our mind and heart (soul).

So, as David taught us here in Ps 32:1-2, blessed (happy) is the man that God won't charge with sin, transgression or iniquity, because he has been forgiven. And the rest of the chapter will go on to teach us more about how to do that. But, let's close this study with a good reminder from the great book of Isaiah...

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

*4 **Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:***

Isa 26:3-4

We'll pick this up in part 2...

AMEN.