

God's Greatest Hits

Studies in Psalms



Chewing Tinfoil and Licking Wasps

Introduction to Psalms 32, 51, & 143

- The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life**
- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
 - **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
 - **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
 - **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
 - **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

According to Envoy magazine, chewing tinfoil and licking wasps ranked as 2 of the top 10 least favorite Medieval penances. These methods illustrate the warped view that most people have of getting right with God. However, God's way of restoration is with a simple confession, an honest admission to God of the offense, accompanied by a sincere intention to not repeat it. Our study this week focuses on three such psalms, called "penitential psalms" that deal with this theme. Two of them, Psalm 32 and 51, probably relate to the same sinful event, King David's adultery and murder. In Psalm 32 David reveals His feelings after confession; a sense of blessedness is produced in the lives of those who sincerely confess their sin to God. This

partly comes because God forgives us and guilt is resolved, but also because holding a confession inside damages us mentally and physically. Another result produced by confession is the sense that God is once again our protector and teacher now that we are back on His side. We know that He will deliver us and lead us. Psalm 51 then delves into the process of confession itself. The first step of true confession occurs when we realize that we have offended not only man, or ourselves, but we have offended God by our sin; thus, His punishment is justified. Then we must recognize that we are sinful by nature, and only God's grace can enable us to overcome this tendency to violate His principles. Lastly, we must understand that



Singing God's songs helps our hearts connect with His

only genuine confession leads to the acceptable sacrifice of true brokenness; no other sacrifice will impress God. Finally, Psalm 143 shows us the promise that confession holds. When we engage in confessing our dependence on God, He will always come through for us. We must own our inability and His total worthiness, then we will receive His blessing. This way of grace is much better than chewing tinfoil or licking wasps.

Daily Study Questions for Psalm 32, 51, & 143

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.thehospitalchurch.com/small groups/ABFs/leader resources](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com/small_groups/ABFs/leader_resources))

1. Read Psalm 32:1-4. What condition are we in when we don't confess our sin (v3, 4), and when we do confess our sin (v1, 2)?	
2. According to Ps 32:5-7 what happens when we confess our sin (v5), and what does that do for our relationship with God (v6-7)?	
3. From Ps 32:8-11 what does God promise to do for us after confessing our sins (v8-9)? How do we feel when we decide to obey the Lord (v10-11)?	

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Psalm 32, 51 & 143 Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. Using Ps 51:1-5 who does sin basically violate (v3, 4) and what can God do about it (v1-2)? What is sin's root cause (v5)?</p>	
<p>5. From Ps 51:6-10 what does God desire in us (v6) and what will He do for us when we repent (v7, 8, 9, 10)? Why is this so important?</p>	
<p>6. Read Ps 51:11-15. What was David afraid of (v11) and what did he need (v12, 14)? What did he promise to do (v13, 14, 15)? How can we apply this?</p>	
<p>7. Looking at Ps 51:16-19 what sacrifices please God (v16-17)? Why do you think they do? How does this relate to sincere confession?</p>	
<p>8. Using Ps 143:1-4 describe the psalmist's situation (v3, 4). How did he respond to this (v1) and what confession did he make (v2)?</p>	
<p>9. In Ps 143:5-8 what was the psalmist thinking about (v5), and what did this lead him to do (v6, 7, 8)? How would you apply this to your life?</p>	
<p>10. According to Ps 143:9-12 what did the psalmist pray for (v9, 10, 11, 12)? Why did he ask for this (v9, 11, 12)?</p>	
<p>11. Looking back over Ps 32, 51 and 143 describe what confession produces in our lives (Ps 32), how the process works (Ps 51), and what confessing our dependence on God promises (Ps 143).</p>	

Scripture to Remember

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."

Psalm 32:8 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Monopoly—Respect and Honor

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Who receives the most respect in Monopoly—those with the most cash, or the most improved property? What is respect, and what makes us worthy of it as people?
2. Discuss why being created in God's image and the fact that Christ died for us on the cross should lead us to show respect to others.
3. What do 1 John 4:8 and Gal 6:7 say about the character of God and about the compensation (payback) that should motivate us to genuinely honor others?
4. How do you show respect to others when truth needs to be spoken (Eph 4:25) or when someone is subordinate to you (Eph 6:5-9)? Give specific examples.
5. Talk about how to honor someone even when you disagree with them (Rom 14:12-14), and when you share your faith with them (1 Pet 3:15). Why is this difficult?
6. Bring up anything else important to you from the message today if you have time.