The Burden Of A Guilty Conscience

Robert Harkrider · Psalm 32:1–5 · Series: **Turning to God**

INTRODUCTION

- I believe this psalm exposes the feeling of every person who has a tender heart, but is struggling to conceal the guilt of sin.
- Perhaps on your heart and in your conscience, you may know of some sin that you've hidden in hope it'll just go away.
- Maybe it's not going to happen that someone's going to announce your guilt. But the reality is God knows.

1 One Sin Multiplies on Top of Another

2 Samuel 11; Psalm 38:4; Acts 13:22

- One sin just multiplies on top of another, like a snowball coming down the mountain, it gathers steam and just gets bigger and bigger when we try to cover it rather than dealing with it the proper way.
- Finally led to murder, didn't it? David knew that what he did was wrong.
- For mine iniquities are gone over mine head as a heavy burden. They are too heavy for me.

2 David's Response: I Have Sinned

2 Samuel 12:13

- How could a man so guilty of sin be forgiven? It's because of what David did in response to his guilt.
- David did not blame others, excuse himself, tell Nathan to go mind his own.
- David's reaction unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord.
- The three most difficult words to enunciate are the words, I was wrong.

3 Conscience Is Our Judge and Our Guide

Romans 14:23

- They which heard it being convicted by their own conscience.
- Whatsoever is not of faith is sin. If you believe something to be wrong, you better not participate in it.
- Our conscience really is our guide. It's not our Savior. But it guides us.
- The fact is, our conscience is like that. It helps us to know right from wrong.

4 Our Consciences Can Be Wrong

Acts 23:1; Acts 24:16; 1 Timothy 1:15

- Our consciences can be misguided. Our consciences can be wrong.
- I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.
- Even though I put Christians to death and gave authority for it, I did it out of clear conscience. Honestly mistaken.
- He described himself as the chief of sinners.

5 Truth Brings Our Conscience to a Crossroads

Acts 9:5

- Now, when he came face to face with the Lord, truth then came upon him. And truth brings our conscience to a crossroads.
- I'm Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest.
- He had to make a decision either to continue honest or to continue mistaken, but no longer honestly mistaken.
- While outwardly it looked it was reversal, inwardly it was of clear conscience.

6 Our Consciences Can Become Seared

Acts 24:25; 1 Timothy 4:1–2; Titus 1:15

- Our consciences can become seared. Hardened, callous.
- Having their conscience seared as with a hot iron.
- You finally get to where it just doesn't bother you any longer.
- Even their mind and conscience is defiled.

MY NOTES