

I. David's Life: A Crucial Study

Last time, and for the last couple of weeks, we have been looking at David's life. In time, we are going to look at Abraham's life too. I think understanding these two men, their lives, what they go through, and their relationship with God is absolutely crucial in your understanding of the great book of Romans. We are going to be talking about that. Not only that, I think their lives by themselves stand as a great lesson and a characterization of what we should be.

As we study through David's life, you remember the first time we talked about David, I kind of took you to the end of his life, or the bad part of his life anyhow, and I showed you his downfall. We called that David's Fatal Furlough when he got messed up with Bathsheba and Uriah.

I told you that if you want to study David's life, and I think that every Christian at some time in their walk with God needs to really break down the life of David. I think that for me, when I did it, I kind of broke David down into the three aspects that really speak about his life. We have looked at two of those. We talked about David as a shepherd, and I showed you how in that particular study of his life, you see the foundational years of his life. You see the things that when he is alone with God out there tending to sheep, he builds into his life that really pays off down the line in his life.

I told you, if you remember that study, that I do not know of anything more important in your life than when you first get saved, or maybe when you first just really start to do what is right with the Bible, or put the Bible in your life. I do not know of anything that is better than understanding how important those first months, first year of your life is, where you really get stabilized in the Word of God. We have a number of programs here that help people with that and lay the foundation in their lives of working their way out of some situations maybe that they may find themselves in.

Then we looked last week at David as king. I showed you in that aspect of it, it shows you David as the victorious one. That is a picture of your life and my life the way it really should be. I remember telling you, well, I told you a number of things, but I think the thing that I really wanted to stress last week is the fact that in all of my years in the ministry and dealing with people and understanding what I understand about the Bible and Christianity, I have never seen God's people more in a defeated state than they are today. There are a lot of reasons for that, but God never designed it to be that way; just the opposite. If anybody ought to be victorious in their Christian lives, it ought to be God's people. The very fact that God's people are a defeated people today is a very sad thing, and it is really the main issue in Christianity.

Today we are going to study David from the aspect of God's man. Those were the three aspects: David as shepherd, David as king, and David as a man after God's own heart. I think probably, of all the messages that I preach, and they are on different levels. Some things deal with the doctrinal side of things. Some things deal with the practical side of things. Some things deal with the historical side. Some things are issues that maybe we are facing or you are facing right now.

But I think of all the messages that I preach up to this point as our church, I do not think there will be another message, I know there has not been to this point, I do not know beyond this point, I do not know if there ever could be another message that really focuses on everything that you really need to have in getting to that place in your life.

I really believe, and I mean this with all of my heart, and I know we all struggle with things. We all have issues we struggle with in circumstances of life. But I really believe for the most part, most of you really want to be God's man or God's woman in your life. I really believe that. I think that many times the struggle overwhelms us. We get into circumstances and situations that pull us down and really hurt us in what God wants us to be. But honestly, and I really believe this, I believe that most of God's people today in our church here really want that. Now, whether you get that or not is another whole story. Wanting it and getting it are two different things.

I know of no other man in the Old Testament that teaches, and this is the point I am trying to get across, that teaches about my inner intimacy with the Lord. I cannot obviously look into your heart, nor should I. The Bible says that a lot of things that a man does or a woman does by their action shows you their heart. "Out of the abundance of the mouth the heart speaks," a lot of things people say. But at the end of the day, I know of no other man in the Bible that teaches me about what my inner intimacy should be and what should be going on with me and God in my life behind the scenes in my daily walk. I look at David's life and I see that better than any other man in the Bible.

You remember I told you a couple of times throughout our series that there are really seven men in the Old Testament that really give you a kind of a composite of what we need to be.

- Moses will show you how to have your servant's heart.
- Abraham will show you how to walk by faith.
- Job will show you about the sufferings of life and show you some things you are going to have to go through.
- Daniel will show you how to overcome the flesh.
- Noah, he will show you how to overcome the world.
- Samuel, he will teach you how to minister.
- But David teaches you about your relationship with the Word of God.

This is why, when you come through all the men under the establishment of the nation of Israel, we call them the kings of Israel, and First and Second Kings, First and Second Chronicles, you are going to find that David was the standard by which God judges all the kings by. At the same time, within his life, he is one of the great examples today of, and this is the reason why we are focusing on it, getting God's righteousness when we do not deserve it.

I ask you to turn to Romans chapter 4, and I want you to look down here now at verse 6, 7, and 8. This is where we are going to concentrate our study today, and through this, I hope that the Lord will do in your life what needs to be done, and in my life what needs to be done.

Romans 4:6-8

Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

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

Father, we thank You today and praise You for the Lord Jesus. Lord, I want to take this verse today and I want to open up the life of David. Lord, You are going to have to help me to do that. I believe that there are men and women here today that really want to have a relationship with You. Lord, there comes a point where I can teach them everything about the Bible and lay out all the things in the Bible, and I can be there to help them walk them through their issues and problems and give them all the instruction in the world of what they should do. Lord, the bottom line is they have to decide in their own heart that they want that kind of relationship, and then they have got to do what they have got to do. Help us to learn today from David's life. We have studied him as the great shepherd. We have studied him as the great king. Now help us today to see what made him God's man. Help us to see the inside of David, the intimacy that he had with You that shows us what You look for, what You want to see in me, what You want to see in these Your people. Help us, Lord, to develop that attitude that David had and develop that relationship that he had, that it can be said about us too that we were God's man and we had God's heart. Lord, we will thank You and praise You today in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

II. David's Sins and Imputed Righteousness

I said just a moment ago, you will remember our very first message on David's life, we talked about in 2 Samuel chapter 11, David's Fatal Furlough. I showed you there, and we looked at that story. There is a reason why I did it first. There are some things I wanted you to see and think about throughout the time. But we saw where David falls into sin. The Bible records that the two sins that he falls into are adultery and murder: adultery with Bathsheba and murder by killing her husband Uriah.

Yet, if it did not draw your attention to it, and if you did any reading about David's life at all, you would know that those were not the only two problems David had in his life. There is a whole list, a whole bucket load of sins that David struggled through in his life. But when it comes to studying his life, God chose two sins to show us. There is a reason for that, and there lies the answer to why David was one of the men chosen to show us how we get God's righteousness imputed into us. Remember, Romans 4:6-8, we just read, clearly David talking about a man being blessed whom God will not impute sin in his life. That is obviously a reference to David.

The reason that those are the only two sins mentioned, and in fact, there were many sins, but God used these two to teach us imputed righteousness, is simply this: because there is no payment for those sins. There is nothing a man could do if he committed one or both of those sins, and this gave his case both. There is nothing that he could do. You have got to see the picture of what is taking place.

In the Old Testament versus the New Testament, you are going to find in the Old Testament, if a man went out and he did some sin, the sins in the Old Testament are in two categories: they are what we call sins and they are what we call trespasses. Sin in the Bible in the Old Testament will always be against God. Trespasses will always be against man. You will find that the sacrifices are built around either sin against God or trespass against man. But when it comes to these two sins that David committed, murder and adultery, there are no bulls and goats you can bring. Everything else, when you go through the study of the Old Testament, you will find that there was a sacrifice that they could bring, whether it was a sin offering or a trespass offering. But when it comes to these two, there was no offering that could be. Nothing God would accept. The only thing that God would accept in this case, or one of these two cases, was death.

That is why the reason God focuses on these two sins, and many people get this messed up, the reason why God focuses on these two sins is not because these are the two worst sins you can commit. When it comes to God, you better learn something very quick: all sin is sin. At the same time I say that, I add this to my little postscript: some sins carry greater consequences than other sins. But He did not illuminate these two because of the fact that He wanted to show you what one is worth in the other. He wanted to show you that under the Old Testament law, these two sins were punishable by death without any exception. By doing that, He wanted to create the picture, and this is why David shows up in Romans, because David did not deserve to get God's righteousness, or I should say, to keep God's righteousness. God should have taken it from him, but God did not. The picture comes into play of what takes place in your life and my life.

In the Old Testament, the book of Leviticus, I think there are six sacrifices that they can do. As I said, some are against trespassing against man, some are against sin and against God. But when it comes to these two, there is no exception. There is no sacrifice. This in type is a picture of where you and I find ourselves before we trusted Christ as our own personal Savior.

I want to go now, you do not have to turn to it if you do not want to. You can if you want. Write it down or just listen to me. But this takes us back to the book of Romans, chapter 7, in verse 22. This is where Paul now is talking about you and me. What we see now is, the picture begins to emerge, that what the two sins that David committed, because there is no sacrifice for them, there is nothing that he could do. He deserved to die. Nothing in the law that was written can save him from that. The only thing that saved him from that was God coming down and giving him His righteousness when he did not deserve it. In that picture, ladies and gentlemen, is what we find in Romans chapter 7, verse 22, when Paul says this:

Romans 7:22

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

This will be called in your Bible the law of sin and death. This is what David's two sins represent. Because there was no sacrifice for them, because there was nothing he could do, nothing he could bring. It sets the stage for you and me that before we were saved, we were

under the law of sin and death. What does that mean? There was absolutely nothing we could do either. We had a death sentence on us. Not just because of, and this is the great key, it was not because of just one particular sin. All sin was sin. But we were under the law of sin and death. Because we were unsaved, because we could not bring anything that we had. No sacrifice could we make, just like there was no sacrifice that David could make. There is no confession that we could make, just like there was no confession that David could make. The law was against us. There was no church we could join that would fix our problem. Freedom would not fix it. Doing good works would not fix it. There was absolutely nothing we could do to get out from under the penalty of sin and death, just like there was nothing David could do. In both cases, God made a way to impute His righteousness to us, just as He did to David, when neither one of us deserved it. That, my friend, is the example of David. That is a great picture of getting God's righteousness. When you see that, you understand that Romans chapter 6 verse 23 says that the wages of our sin is death. Under the law of sin and death, what we do demands death. Nothing we can do. If Christ would not have come down and died on the cross and give us that option that we might get His righteousness when we did not deserve it, we are lost without hope, without Christ, without any way out, just as David found himself. But in both cases, David's and ours, God made a way. God came down and He gave him His free gift, gave him His righteousness when it was free and undeserved, just like He did for you and me in the death of His Son on Calvary's cross.

III. The Sure Mercies of David

In your Bible, what I just explained to you in the Old Testament under David is called the sure mercies of David. That is not just a Bible cliché. That is a term that is found in the Bible. You want to put into your Bible and get this next section down because it will help you out and you want to work it through and get it. What I have just talked to you about, or what David got, which is in type a picture of what you and I got, is why David is listed in Romans, that is the book that shows you and I as the church how we got God's imputed righteousness, is called the sure mercies of David. Let us talk about that for a moment.

In your Bible, there are three passages that will detail this out, and you want to mark these passages when we go through them here in just a minute. They are the major key today to understanding the concept of the sure mercies of David. David is the most unique man in all the Bible.

The standard teaching today is this, and I just have to clear this up before we go on. The standard teaching today, and it is a heresy, and it is taught by everybody because nobody knows the Bible anymore, but the standard teaching is that all through the Bible people are saved the same way. That back in the Old Testament they just asked Christ to save them even though Christ did not even come yet. They were saved just like you and I are. Of course, we know that is not true. We know that there is a great contrast between the Old Testament and the New Testament. We also know that when you look at it and you see it, there is nothing really comparable to that.

In the Old Testament, there is no body of Christ. In the New Testament, after Christ's death, He established His body which you were born into through a spiritual new birth. There is no

spiritual new birth in the Old Testament. You are born again. If you are here this morning and you are going to heaven, it is because you entered into a new birth through a contract agreement with Christ and His death on the cross, that you said, "God, I cannot save myself. Bring what You did on the cross into my life and be my payment for that sin." That is the only way you got saved. When that happened, the Bible says that a spiritual revolution took place in your life. Your life was changed from that point on, that you became a new creature in Christ Jesus by a spiritual birth. We call it born again after John chapter 3 verse 3, which is a very popular phrase today that is thrown around. But that is what happened. There was not in the Old Testament. There was no spiritual kingdom in the Old Testament. It was a literal kingdom. There is no indwelling Holy Spirit of God in the Old Testament. He came and left. There is no salvation like ours in the Old Testament. A man had to do what God told him to do and obey what God told him to do, and it varies all down through the Bible.

On top of that, you know what we have? We have something that nobody else in the Bible ever had, and it is called eternal security. Eternal security to me is basic doctrine 101. To some people it becomes a major issue. I have never understood why some saved people get so excited about losing their salvation and going to hell. I have never understood it. Once I got saved, brother, and I realized the fact that God redeemed me and washed away all my sins, if you think I am going to go back and try to conjure it up that there is a way I can, I am going to figure out. I mean, I cannot understand a guy saying, "Well, I am going to show you in the Bible a verse that says you can lose it." Do you ever stop and analyze that? You realize if it is true that you can lose your salvation? If it is true, if it is possible for you to lose your salvation, I have some terrible news for you: you are going to lose it. Who in the world do you think you are? There is only one man in the world that could not lose it. The reason why He came and died is because you and I could not keep it. You realize the depth, the blasphemy you say when a man gets up there and says, "Well, you can lose your salvation, but I will not lose mine," or, "I can keep mine, but you can lose yours unless you do this." Let me tell you something, there is only one man in the world that ever survived life on planet earth who was tempted at all points like we are, yet without sin, who never lost His salvation because He could not. Because I was unsaved and He kept it for me, you know what He gave me? He gave me what He had. You know what He had? He had eternal security. Is anybody here not going to tell me that Jesus Christ did not have eternal security? Well, if He had eternal security, where was that eternal security found? It was found in His righteousness, amen? You know what I got when I got saved? I got His righteousness. I got the whole enchilada. I got the whole Taco Bell in the parking lot with it when I got saved. I got it. I do not understand that. But that is not true in the Old Testament. It is true now.

Let me give you the greatest verse in the Bible that I have ever found, and I have got about four or five of them, but they are \$20 a piece and I am just going to give you one today. Ezekiel chapter 18. Now let me show you David's condition. Let me show you what should have happened with David. This is the Old Testament. This is the difference between what I have and what he had.

Ezekiel 18:24

But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

There is a picture of a man who once did righteous and then he did iniquity and he dies in his sin because he never came back to God. But that is in the Old Testament. That is in the Old Testament. You know why a man believes you can lose your salvation? It is because he does not understand first of all the Bible in the big picture. He does not understand the sure mercies of David in the smaller picture. If you can explain to me the sure mercies of David this morning and you understand it in your own heart and you got it in your Bible and you know it, there is no way you can come to the conclusion in the New Testament you can lose your salvation. You know why? Because David in the Old Testament could. He did not have it like you and I had it. That verse told you right there if you did righteous and then you turned and went to unrighteousness and you did iniquity that you die in your sin. Your good works are not even mentioned. That is David's condition. David did what was right, then he entered into iniquity and he did what was wrong. You know what God did? That is his state. He was destined at that point to die in his sin. You know why? Because there was no sacrifice for those two things. You know what God did? This is what makes David so unique to you and me. This is why you want to study him. This is why you want to learn every aspect of his life. He represents as a shepherd, as a king and after a man's own heart everything that you and I want to be. You know what God did? God reached down in the Old Testament where there was no eternal security, where there was no indwelling Holy Spirit of God, where there was no church long before the death of Christ when the blood of bulls and goats could only temporarily cover sin but could not pay for it and God gave one man eternal security in the Old Testament. One man, one man. David was the only man in the Bible in the Old Testament who gets eternal security in the time when there is none. By all accounts David should have died in his iniquity and in his sin. But God saw something. God saw in him something that He did not see in somebody else and God reached down and when he did not deserve it, when he violated the law, God made a disruption in His own law and said, "I am going to give him My righteousness in spite of what he did when there was no penalty, no sacrifice for it." You know what God did in your life, my life? He did the same thing. He disrupted the law of sin and death and He said, "I am going to give Bob Alexander My righteousness even when there is no way he should have it." Hallelujah, praise the Lord.

Now I want to show you these three passages on the sure mercies of David. There are three main ones in the Bible or three in the Bible that what we want.

Psalms 89:20-29

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him:

With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him.

And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him.

But my faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers.

He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.

Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.

My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him.

His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.

Psalms 89:30-34

If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments;

If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;

Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.

Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.

My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.

You see that thing, verses 24, 28, 29, 33. That is as close as you are going to get to a New Testament doctrine of eternal security anywhere in the Bible. That is why so many people are drawn to Psalms. That is why when you and I get into a jam, Psalms is the first place we think about going. Because Psalms is where David got what nobody else could give him. Psalms is where David got God's righteousness imputed to him when he did not deserve it. You and I are drawn to that book as most people are when it comes to dealing with situations where we get into time.

Isaiah 55:1-3

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

You know what he just told us? He says that David was a witness to the people. Doctrinally that verse is to the nation of Israel. Inspirationally it is a picture, it is to you and me. They are both God's people, one doctrinally but one inspirationally. David is a witness to me and to Israel of what God is going to do.

Acts 13:34

And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.

There is God making another reference to the nation of Israel going all the way back through the seed which is Israel, and you are going to find that these three passages lay out in detail for you what the sure mercies of David are. That David in a situation that demanded death, David in a situation under the law where there was no sacrifice, God imputed His righteousness to him and did not take it from him. He should have died in his sins, but he did not because God gave him the sure mercies of David, and that was God's promise to him and to his seed, and you and I spiritually are in that seed. That is a picture of you and me and not God killing you and me in our ungodliness, and in both cases it is undeserved.

IV. The Heart of God: Psalms

Now that we have got that in mind, let us move on to the next level. Now let us see how and why David gets this sure mercy. If you had come through the Old Testament, and I already mentioned this, you would see that there is not much that matches up to the Old Testament and the New Testament. I listed all the things, many of the things that are the contrast between what they had to do and what we have to do. How God deals with them versus how God deals with us. The fact that theirs is a literal kingdom, ours is a spiritual kingdom. In fact, they are in a nation. Their temple was a literal temple. Our temple is a spiritual temple. Our body, totally, totally different. But there is one thing that is the same in both, and this is the key really, and the thing that is the same in a vast contrast of things that are different, is that in both cases, the Old Testament and the New Testament, God always deals with a man on the basis of his attitude or heart. That is the thing that never changes. When God looks at you and me, He does not see what everybody else sees. You see, you can clean this all up, come to church. You can look prim and proper. You could be Al Capone or Machine Gun Kelly or Dillinger inside this morning and look like Mother Teresa on the outside. It does not matter what you put on the outside. When God deals with you, and this is what a lot of people do not like, God goes right down and deals with you in your heart, and that is where it starts. That is where it starts, and that is the same wherever you go.

I think that if the Bible is the body of Christ, and the Bible, and we talk about how that in the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God, remember that? Same as in the beginning with God, all things were made by Him, nothing was made was made, and then it comes down and says, and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Remember that? Well, let me tell you something. If that book is the embodiment of God's body in a book, now I understand what I am saying, you know, you can tear pages out of that book, you cannot tear pages out of God, I know what I am saying here, but if that book represents the embodiment of God or the Word made flesh, then Psalms, Psalms is the heart of God. If God is like you, God has to have a soul. You know what the soul is of God? Psalms 119. Psalms is the book, man. Psalms is the book.

You realize that when you read it, it contains every emotion that you and I are ever going to experience? You know the book of Psalms is a book that when you break it down, it is an incredible deal. What I am about to give you this morning, I have never really taught you before,

it has been so personal to me, but I think that, you know, maybe it is time to, and I have followed this for many, many, many, many years, my own wife does not even know all of this, and I think that when you get this today, you know, it will be the determining factor in your life. You realize that everybody comes to a crossroads in their life, you know that, Christians? Oh, I say people do too. But you know there comes a point in your life when you come to church, any church, and you get that in your heart that you want to do what is right with God, and for a period of time you start doing it, and then you come to a crossroads. That crossroads is, are you going to move off the level that you are at and move up to the next level? That next level is going to, maybe you see for a while you can get along and the emotion and the thrill of it all just kind of carries you along, but after a while the daily, this is the reality of life. It is like eating at the same restaurant every day. How many times have you ate some place that the first time you ate it was the greatest meal you ever had in your life and you say, "I am coming back here tomorrow." And you go back tomorrow and it is really good, and then you go back, "I am going back the next day," and the next day you go back it was not quite as good as it was the first time.

I am telling you, you come to a crossroads in your life and you have to decide, "I am going to go up the steps to the next level," but that necessitates that "I am going to have to focus on something, change something, deal with something." At that point is where, to really, as the cliché is, where the rubber meets the road. That is where so many of God's people then, when they do not want to fix what is wrong with themselves, they start focusing on what is wrong with everybody else. You ever notice that? That indifference begins to come in. That joy that they had is gone, and pretty soon they are just going through the motions because the joy that motivated them, they came to a point and they said in their own heart, not to me, they may come to church 25 years after they make that decision, but in their heart they decided a long time ago, "I am not going any farther. I am done where I am at. I do not really want to do that." Then the compounding effect begins to move into their life and all the problems begin to come in.

V. The Seven Authors of Psalms

You realize that seven men wrote Psalms? Seven. Another one of those seven men wrote and things into your Bible. If you really want to understand all the elements, and as far as I am concerned, the key to David's relationship with God and the key to David getting God's favor and a heart after God's own heart that God looked past what He did and dealt with Him, paid the consequences but gave Him what He gave Him, was based on what David had in his relationship with God which he got of that book right there.

You realize that David writes 73 of the Psalms by name. You realize that 49 of the Psalms are anonymous. You realize then coming through the book of Psalms, if you take the time to do it, Asaph, Solomon, Ethan, Moses, and the sons of Korah write the rest. You realize that the book of Psalms, which is the heart of God, which contains the soul of God, is written around by seven different people. Within those seven people, you want to have a relationship with God. You want to have a working relationship with God, start on the book of Psalms. "Well, Bob, where do I start?" Well, gee, I start with the seven men that wrote it. I would find everything about those men that I could find out. I would go in there and I would do a search study in every one of them

and I would find out what those men were, what they had that God allowed them to be the part of the greatest book that makes up His body and His heart and then makes up His soul. I am going to walk you through them. These men very frankly, ladies and gentlemen, represent what your life and my life should be. I do not know how else to tell it. If you want to have the relationship with God that you need to have, if you want to get out of the mud pit you are in, if you want to fix the problems that you have got, if you want to get to the point where you really become a working usable tool in God's tool belt, then I am going to tell you, you have got to get God's heart. If you want to be like David, a man after God's own heart, then you are going to have to get where David got to get what David got.

1. Asaph: You know who the first one is? We are going to put these in a working order. The first one is Asaph. You know what the book of Psalms means? The word Psalm means praise. You realize the number one thing you need to have in your life with God that edifies all this and drives all of this? It is your praise toward God. I have told you earlier, I have never been in a time in Christianity where I have ever seen it such a mess. I have never seen a time in Christianity where what people do have absolutely nothing to do with what God wants you to do. How many churches have you been in or how many places do you go? You see, we think that praise is music. That is what we think. We think, we got the idea today that you praise God through music. As therefore, music must be what we use to praise God. Of course, we take that and we build on that, and the truth of the matter is the two great ingredients in your life, which is praise and worship, have absolutely nothing to do with music per se. You want a definition of praise in the Bible? It is not music, it is Psalms. The key to praise and worship is found in Psalms. Psalms is the key. You know who Asaph was? He was David's chief musician. He writes Psalm 78 through Psalm 83. He is a musician who is connected with praise, but he is more than just an entertainer or a musician. The key to his music is the fact that he is a seer. He is a prophet who writes song based on Bible doctrine. You see, we get the idea that the key to, because, and I know the Psalms were sung, I know that. So we think that the word Psalms and we think that praise of God lies in music, and we are wrong. Praise of God never lies in music. Praise for God lies in doctrine. It just so happens that the book of great doctrine, the book of Psalms which we praise, was sung.
2. Solomon: Then we have Solomon. He writes some of them. Solomon represents what you and I ought to have once we see praise through Asaph and worship through Asaph based on the Bible doctrine. Solomon represents for us the wisdom that we have, the knowledge that we have, and the understanding that we should have. You have heard me say many, many times that knowledge any unsaved man can have. Any unsaved man and woman can have wisdom, but understanding is something that only a Christian can have once he understands the principles. Solomon, he represents the discernment you should have. Solomon, he represents the discretion you should have. He represents the wisdom of not just knowledge, not just wisdom, but understanding that things really are. Seeing beyond what the appearance is. Seeing beyond what is portrayed to you.
3. Ethan: Then we have Ethan. Ethan is a great study. There is only one psalm written by him by name in the Bible, and it is Psalm 89. Ethan is the Ezrahite over there in 1 Kings chapter 4 verse 31. The Bible says in that passage that he is the wisest man in the list under Solomon. He is the next wisest man down. It does not take a lot for me to see. All I have to do is read

his one psalm and realize that that psalm not only is the great passage that deals with God's mercy, sure mercies of David, which I told you we come back to and I told you Mark that because Psalm 89 is important, but the context of Psalm 89 is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. You know what Ethan brings into the game for me? Never lose my focus. Never lose my perspective. Never lose my passion and my urgency because you see it is so easy to get caught up in this world. It is so easy to get caught up in all the ball games, all the wine coolers, all the beer, all the parties, all this, all that, all the world Olympics, all the things that are going around. It is so easy to get caught up in all of that that you lose the focus of why God left you here after He saved you. We have a mandate. We are up against an agenda and that agenda is He is coming and time is running through the clock and we have got a job we have got to do and we cannot lose our perspective and we cannot lose our focus. That is what Ethan does for me. Every time I read that psalm it brings me back to the focal point: He is coming. He is coming. He is coming.

4. Moses: The next one is Moses. Moses is an example for me in the book of Psalms of a practical, a functional relationship with God that most Christians never get to and never understand. Moses was God's friend. He spoke to God face to face. He shows the intimacy that we ought to have in a daily walk with God of communicating with God. He shows you and me what our prayer life should really be like. Not 15 minutes here, 15 minutes here, but a continual walk all day long conversing with God as a man speaks to his friend face to face.
5. Sons of Korah: Then the fifth one. These will be the sons of Korah. You will find them in 1 Chronicles chapter 9 verse 19. You know what their function was? The sons of Korah were keepers of the gate to the temple. What a tremendous thing that is. We see Asaph who represents for us and represents for you and me what praise and worship should be based on Bible doctrine. We see Solomon about discernment and discretion and getting understanding and understanding the things as they are. We see Ethan as the focal point of the second coming of Christ, our passion. We see Moses as the friend of God in our daily day relationship, and then we come to the sons of Korah. They were the boys that stood at the gate of the temple and made sure nothing came in the temple that was going to defile God. Who stands at your gate of your temple, making sure nothing you take into your life, your mouth, your nose, your face, whatever, defiles God's temple? Who stands at your gate? You know what the book of Psalms will do for you? It will stand to watch at your gate. It will do for you what the sons of Korah did for the literal temple back in 1 Chronicles 9. The principles of the Word of God will stand watch and let nothing come into your temple that will defile. That is what they did. When you go back and study that passage about the temple and the whole study of the temple, you will find there were things they could not bring in. There were things that if you brought in it defiled God, it defiled the sanctuary, it defiled the tabernacle, and those boys stood at the gate and checked the baggage and the luggage and the handbags and the provisions and ran the ones over and made sure that nothing they brought in was going to defile God's holy temple. Who stands watch on your gate?
6. David: The sixth one, David. He writes 73 Psalms, but it is understanding the Psalms that he writes that we see David's heart. Basically, Psalms is three things from David's standpoint or a historical standpoint. It is David when he is right with God. It is David when he is out of fellowship and running from God, and then it is David when he is getting right with God and

coming back to God. The whole Psalm can be broken down that way. You know what it is? It is a picture for you and me, putting these seven men around this thing. I will tell you what it is. It is a picture of you and me when we are doing right with God. It is a picture of you and me when we are running from God, and it is a picture of you and me how to get right back with God. In other words, what worked for David will work for you and me. David committed two sins. No sacrifice for him. Only thing he could get is death, but God saw something in David. God saw David's heart based on the shepherd years and the king years that He gave him His righteousness when he did not deserve it.

VI. David's Prayer of Repentance (Psalm 51)

You know what the greatest psalm is in the Bible if you ever need to get right with God? It is Psalm 51. Psalm 51 is David's great prayer when he got right with God. It breaks down, you might know it, the seven petitions. Let me read this for you and let me show you how this thing works into your own life through the life of David.

Psalms 51:1-19

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

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

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

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

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

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

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

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

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

One of the greatest prayers ever in the Bible. If you ever come to the place that you need to get back with God, if you ever want to see how David got back and what God gave him, the sure mercy of David, and how it is a picture of you and me, everything in the Psalms when you build these seven men around this book of Psalms, shows you every aspect and every element. You want to get right with God? There is no greater prayer right here.

Shall we look at the seven petitions of this prayer? The seven things in this prayer you have got to do if you really want to make it right with God and get it right with God.

7. Acknowledge Your Transgression: Look what he says, verse 3, "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me." You know the first thing you have to realize? It was your transgression. When I grew up back in the 80s, there was a little comedian called Flip Wilson. He used to run around saying, "The devil made me do it." The devil does not make you do anything. I think the biggest, and I see it all the time, I see it all the time, and it has to be the start of where you get right with God, because I see it all the time where God's people have got sin in their life, they have got problems in their life, and when they do not want to get right, you know what they do? They look for somebody else they can blame it on and justify themselves. That is the game. I see parents do it. Let me tell you something. If you are a parent here this morning, one of the most damnable things you can do to your kids, for your kids, at your kids, around your kids, and before and back, inside and north and south and east and west of your kids, is when they are wrong, try to find somebody else in the church that is doing wrong in their kids and then justify yours by theirs. Where it starts, you getting right with God, it is your sin, it is your transgression, you cannot sell it on me, on you, or somebody else, it is your deal, deal with it. That is where it starts. If you are not willing to get to that point right there where you recognize, David said, "It is my transgression." It is not Uriah, it is not Bathsheba, it is not, she did not make me do it, she did not seduce me, why she comes up there every night because she knows I walk out on the porch, it was her fault, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, it was my transgression. That is where it starts.
8. Recognize Sin Against God: Then look at verse 4, here is the next thing you have got to realize. "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned." Your sin is against God, not me, not your friend, not your wife, not your husband, it is against God. The consequences may roll down to other people, but your sin is against God. Let me tell you something, when you recognize to get him, his standard is a lot higher. I wish my sin could be against you, or my sin, your sin could be against me, because I would cut you a lot more slack than God will, because I am a sinner too, I get as much to cut you some slack than you can cut me some slack. God does

not cut anybody any slack. It is your transgression, and it is against Him, and His holiness, and His holy principles, that you have transgressed, deal with it. Where it starts?

9. Desire Truth in Inward Parts: Verse 6, "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom." You know what the first thing is, once you start to put this thing in perspective? Get honest with yourself. Quit trying to blame somebody else for your problems. Quit trying to point somebody else out in the crowd and justify your lifestyle, what you want to do, the fact that you are out of fellowship with God, by drawing attention to somebody else and getting the spotlight off yourself. Bottom line is this, my friend, God desires truth in the inward parts between you and Him.
10. Be Purged by Hyssop (Blood): Look at the next one, verse 7, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." You know why the great verse here is hyssop? I do not know if you remember it or not, but that is what you find over there in Exodus chapter 12 verse 22. Remember when the nation of Israel came out of Egypt, they were told to put the blood on the door? You know what kind of plant they were told to use? Hyssop. Hyssop is kind of like a, looks like a kind of sagebrush, it is very dense, and it makes a perfect paintbrush. They were not to use anything but hyssop, because in your Bible, hyssop represents something. In your Bible, hyssop represents, a little bit later on in the nation of Israel, it represents, it was used in all the purifying things, all the acts of purification were used with hyssop. You are going to find that it is an aroma, it has a smell to it, and if you taste it, it has got a good taste to it. Hyssop represents the goodness of God and His salvation, and it is unmatched where you get washed by the hyssop, by the blood. That is why God had on the door to bring them out. That is why David said, he understood that, and he said, "Paint me, get me covered up with hyssop and blood." It is a picture of you getting clean.
11. Clean Heart and Right Spirit: Look at verse 10. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." You see, a clean heart and a right spirit. Now you see this in Christians all the time, and I have told you many, many times that your attitude of heart is the thing that you want to keep before God at all times. That is the pinnacle of your life. Your heart being God's heart. When your heart is right with God's heart and you are in agreement with Him, everything else in your life is right on the line. You notice he said, "Create in me a clean heart and renew the spirit." Your spirit is your emotion, how you look at life, how you deal with it. It depends on what that is. It depends on your heart, where it is at with Him. I see some Christians, you know, that, and this is true. You can see it all the time. If you just hang around long enough, you see some Christians, they get saved. They are on fire for God. They have got the bubbline. They are on fire. They are excited about the Word of God. And they do this and that, and they are excited. And they just want to learn. They want to grow. And then suddenly, someday they come to church and that spirit is gone. It is now a defensive spirit. It is now a spirit that does not have what it once had. And somebody says, "What is wrong?" I will tell you what is wrong. The spirit goes when the heart goes. That simple. This is an ABC test. It is not tough. Clean heart, right spirit. Bad heart, wrong spirit.
12. Restore Joy of Salvation: Then look what happens then. Verse 12, you see the heart and then the spirit. Look at verse 12. "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation." You see, the first thing you do is your heart goes. The next thing you go, your attitude goes. And when that

goes, then your joy goes. Now, once was a blessing and a fun thing to do. It is now a labor for it. I have seen this in churches. I have seen in churches where it starts out good, it goes good. And then you get a little group that, you know, it is like birds of a feather flock together, you know, you get a couple bad apples over here with bad hearts. They start hanging in and pretty soon you build. And I have seen it in many, many churches. You get a little elite class coming up in the thing, you know, better than everybody else. Do not do what everybody else does. Go with, do what they want to do. They get their little eliteness going for them. It all comes down to bad heart. It all comes down to bad spirit. And they lose their joy. They do not get the joy out of the same things they used to get joy out of.

13. Broken and Contrite Heart: Now, look at the next thing. Look at the seventh one. Verse 16. "For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Here it comes, here it comes, here it comes, here is the key. Here is the bottom line. Here is what makes it work or does not make it work. This is where it becomes a sham or a show, right here. This is where it becomes reality. This is where it really hits the world. This is where everything comes down to this thing, right here. It is not what you do, but how honest you are on the inside. That David could not give the outside sacrifices because God did not desire those sacrifices, verse 16. David said, "I give it, but You do not desire burnt offering." No, no, why David? I will tell you why. The sacrifices of God are never what you do. The sacrifices of God are never what you bring. The sacrifices of God are in the inward part, desiring truth, dealing with your transgression against God, truth in the inward parts, purging you with hyssop, getting a clean heart, feeling a decaying spirit, getting the joy back, and then realizing the sacrifice of God are a broken spirit and a broken and a contrite heart. Not sorry you got caught, sorry you did it. That is the key to David. That is the key to David. That great prayer is one of the greatest prayers anywhere in the Bible. On the basis of a broken and contrite heart, David got the sure mercies of David. If you ever and I ever have get into a place where we lose those things, and you know when you do, you want back? That is the only way back. Only way back. Only way back.

VII. The Anonymous Psalms: Your Personal Prayer

Then there is one more. We have not got to that one yet, have we? 49 of those Psalms are anonymous. Now see, here is what we have got here. We have got these things working down through here. We have got Asaph. We have got Solomon. We have got Ethan. We have got Moses. We have got the sons of Korah. And we have got David. But then we have got 49 that are anonymous. Now if these things fit down here and show me the seven elements in Psalms that a man or woman has to have, what would be the anonymous part of Psalms? Oh, I know what it would be. It would be me and you. It would be me and you. Our personal involvement with the seven components in the heart of God. What is Psalms to you? What is Psalms to you? You realize that when you, if you look at Psalms 119, and I told you that is the heart of God, Psalm of the heart of God, Psalm 119 is the soul of God. What is Psalms to you? What is Psalms 119 to you? You realize that there are 10 words that describe the book of Psalms found in Psalm 119 to

me? 10 basic little words that tell me what that book is should be to me. It is no wonder that, you know, realize that Psalms 119 is one of the anonymous ones? The longest Psalm in the Bible.

Years and years and years ago, when I first got saved, I heard a man preach a message kind of like this. He told me in that message that Psalm was the heartbeat of God and Psalm 119 was the soul of God. He challenged everybody out there. I was probably 19 years old at the time, maybe 20. He challenged everybody out there that if you wanted to have David's heart and you wanted to be a man after God's own heart and you wanted to find God and the success of God and the favor of God, then that book of Psalm is where you did it. You know what I did? I started reading through Psalms 119, 176 verses. You know what I discovered? I discovered that every verse told me something different about the Word of God. You know what I did? Once I saw that, I still have it in my Bible. I still have it in every Bible I have. In Psalm 119, I wrote, I outlined, I went through that and I thought to myself, "I am going to find me a prayer." If David found his prayer and his relationship with God in Psalms and Psalms is all about these things, I am going to be the anonymous one and I am going to find my own prayer in Psalms. What I did, I was real spiritual back then because I knew that seven was a number of God. So I put, I had 14 petitions in this prayer, two times seven, trying to get all the help I could get.

But I start out like this. I would say, "Lord, wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word. Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

Every day of my life, sometimes twice a day, you know what I do? I put a chair down in a room and I would sit over here and I would pretend God was sitting in that chair and I would read that to Him and I would say, "God, how can I stay clean? Help me. With my whole heart I want to serve You." I took the prayer and his David book and turned it around and read it back to Him and told Him my petition. Every time I would, for a while when I would study the Bible, the last thing I would bow my head and say, I would say, "Open thou mine eyes, and I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." You know what God did? He did. He opened up mine eyes. Whatever I know about the Bible today and whatever I do not know about the Bible today, but I stand on this, whatever I do know about it, I know because in all my heart I believe because God honored what I prayed to Him. I prayed for Him to teach me His word. I came down there and it says, "Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works." You know why God gave me the boldness to preach wherever I go, whatever I do, as far as I believe in my heart, because God made me to understand His precepts. I would go down to the next petition that says, "Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart." All through the book of Psalms I divine my own prayer to bring me through to do in my life what God did in David's life. I am certainly not comparing myself to David in any way,

shape or form. I could not reach out, touch David's shoestrings. But I know where the answer is. I know where the bottom line is. I know what I had to do. You see, I am the anonymous factor. I have got six that the Bible tells me very clearly, but I have got to get involved. You are the anonymous factor. If you have been saved 10, 15, 20 years, why do you not have you a prayer in Psalms? If you have understood what I am saying, and maybe you all did not, that is fine with me. But what about from this point on, by next week, you ought to sit down with that thing. I used to read that thing to God two times a day, sometimes three times a day before I certainly ever studied my Bible. But you see, the problem is most of us do not give God any more than 15, 20 minutes in a Bible. Anyhow, it would take you 15, 20 minutes to do that. We do not have that much time in our busy schedule. There is the problem. There is the problem. There is the problem. Giving God what is left over in our life. A child of God will be only as strong as his or her prayer life. His or her prayer life will only be as strong as their understanding of the book of Psalms, becoming one of the seven ingredients in the Bible.

You know what the book of Psalms is? In the world, when a man talks to himself, we think he is nuts. Years ago, I heard a man say, and he made the analogy, and it was a good analogy. He said, "You know what? That is okay, because the book of Psalms is the man talking to himself." That is how the world thinks you are nuts, because Christianity is so far left from the world. But you know what? That is true. But the book of Psalms is more than a man just talking to himself. Here it comes. If you do not get anything else I said, get this. The book of Psalms is a man talking through himself. He is talking through himself. He is just not talking to himself. He is talking through himself. He is looking at every aspect of his life and then working it through the Bible, talking through himself. Talking through himself. Psalms 119, 1 through 176 is all to build around a different aspect of what the Word of God will do for you, the molding of God's man and God's woman.

You know what the real danger is? I see this a lot in Christianity today. The real danger is it is the God's people come to the point where I see some people when it comes to the Bible, it is like they put rubber gloves on because they do not want to get infected by it. They teach the Bible, they talk about the Bible, but it does not communicate down inside their heart. It does not transmit out. It becomes so judgmental, so self-righteous, you know. They can judge everybody else in the world, but they cannot stop and judge themselves. They have a head knowledge, but it never penetrates down to the heart. The Bible is just academics to them. No passion to it.

Matthew 23:24

Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

When Jesus was talking to the scribes and the Pharisees, you know what He said to them? They were just like that. He said, "You know what your guys' problem is?" He says, "You strain at a gnat and you swallow the camel." You know what that means? It means that they get focused on a gnat. You know what a gnat is? A gnat is just a little bug about that big. You can hardly see it. They get focused on a gnat and spend all their time dealing with a gnat and there is a whole camel right over here they miss. I watched some of you do that with the Bible. Some of the time when you get into the Bible, everything you come up with, you have got the gnat, but you miss

the camel. The Bible has to be a living book. It has to be living in your life. It cannot be sterile. You cannot have the book and not become in the character and the person of Christ. You have to have the warmth. You have to have the caring. I am not saying you do not have to have accountability and deal with things in accountability, but you lose the judgmental. You lose the attitude. You lose the fact that everybody else has got problems and you do not. You realize that we are all in the same light boat and everybody should have an order this morning. That is the bottom line. The only way you get to that point is to get that book in your heart that you see David. The key to David, the key to David is the same key to you and I. He got God's imputed righteousness when he did not deserve it, and you and I got it when we did not deserve it. The way to keep that attitude that you can be David like David, a man after God's own heart, is to go where David got what he got. Get into the book of Psalms and find you a prayer. Get into the book of Psalms and every day, twice a day, before you do anything, you commit that thing to God and ask God to give you this.

I remember it so clearly. I still do it, but I remember sitting there God reading a passage and then stopping. Do not just blow through it and say, "Well, I am done." Stop. Talk to Him. Break down those passages as individuals. Say to God, "Lord, You said if I did this with Your word that You give me this. Well, Lord, You help me do this and then give me this." My last one, my last one was down toward the end of Psalms. It was one I ended with every night and every time and I never forgot it. It is the thing in my heart because I go back to what the old preacher said. Do not ever get so cold, hard and indifferent with God that God cannot reach down and squeeze your heart one time and bring tears to your eyes. So the last thing I ever said when I said that prayer, the last verse, the last word, the last petition, my prayer was simply this: "Rivers of water run down mine eyes, because I keep not thy law." That is where it has to get to. That is where it is real. That is where it is personal. That is what separates the men from the boys. That is what makes the man of God the man of God. It is not what you know or how many things you can quote about this in the Bible. It comes back to what your heart is and where you are at with God in that book. Brother, the Bible says in 1 Corinthians chapter 8 verse 3, "If any man love God, the same is known of him." It shows if you love God and it also shows if you do not.

Every head bowed and every eye closed. Lord, we thank You tonight, today.