

***GOD'S MOST GRACIOUS GIFT***

*Psalm 32: 1-7 NLT // Romans 5:12-19 NLT*

**MONDAY 2/27/23**

Psalm 32: 1-7 // 1 Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!

Romans 5:12-19 //12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. 13 Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break.

**REFLECTION** The Lenten period is 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It is a time of reflection on our lives and to be remorseful and fasting. This is a time to refocus our lives dealing with our sinful activities. This is also a time to meditate on the glory of Jesus Christ who offers us His Spirit to guide us. This is not a season for nonbelievers because they have not accepted the doctrine of original sin. This doctrine accepts the truth Adam's disobedience of God's command effected every human being. The punishment for this disobedience is death to all living things. The deeper we understand this calamity the better we understand the need for a Savior, who is perfect in nature, divine and willing to pay the penalty that God's justice demands. His name is Jesus Christ who takes the curse upon himself to sets us free from the bondage of sin. The doctrine of original sin teaches us, through no fault of our own we die as a result of Adam's disobedience to God will. No living person is exempt from death, all have fallen short. In life, we are deeply effected by the emotional pain losing loved ones. Everyday, we hear stories that death has visited a family. This is a constant reminder of Adam's and Eve curse. How can we be relieved from the darkness and sadness? By having hope in a future life with God. God's most gracious gift is sending to us His very own Son who willingly rescues us from death.

**PRAYER O Father of heaven and earth, what joy it is to know that even though I have been disobedient to Your Will, You sent me a Savior to rescue me from the curse death by forgiving my sins. Blessed are You, Lord Jesus, and I praise Your**

**name.**

**Tuesday, 2/28/23**

Psalm 32: 1-7 // Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!

Romans 5:12-19 // 14 Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. 15 But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift.

**REFLECTION** All of humanity needs to be cleansed from the Adamic sin that destroyed our spiritual relationship with God. The Bible teaches the original sin of Adam caused death. So those living between the time of Adam and Moses lived and died without the knowledge of God's will. These peoples' lives were not accredited with any particular personal sin. However, once the Law of God was given to Moses, each person is now held accountable for their personal sin. This text is often shared with parents whose infant child has died. An infant does not have knowledge of God's Laws, yet they died. By God's loving and saving grace this child is blessed with life. They are not accountable for personal sin due to having no knowledge of God's Will. The death of Christ reunites the infant with God, for Jesus sacrificed his life for that purpose. After the Law was given, we now need to confess we are sinners and receive God's gracious gift of a Savior who takes away the curse of death and pays the penalty for our sins.

**PRAYER Lord Jesus what a joy it is to share Your love for me with others. Praise You for setting me free from the curse of death. Help me this Lenten season to be honest with my self and to face the true about my sins. In Jesus Name, Amen**

### WEDNESDAY 3/1/23

Psalm 32: 1-7 // 3 When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long.

Romans 5:12-19 // 15 For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. 16 And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin.

**REFLECTION** True repentance requires "true brokenness." This begins by holding ourselves accountable for our sins and the harm they have caused to others. Being a Christian is not for the faint of heart. We are invited by the Spirit to humble ourselves before God and confess. It is hard to accept that my sins hurt others. I am the source that causes someone to be hurt spiritually, physically, or emotionally. Think of it this way, when someone bullies us, or tries to manipulate us, we have a number of emotions or physical actions to draw from. If we get angry, we might punch someone in the nose. It is the same when we are wronged. We need to be aware of our responses and stop and think, "What would Jesus do and say?" Jesus tells us to turn the other cheek (Luke 6:29). Jesus said it is worse to cause someone else to sin. (Matthew 18:5-7) But there is a heavenly wisdom which is taught to us by the Word of God. God's Will is the highest mystery delivered to us so we might be clothed in grace and wisdom. To live a life of humbleness, forgiveness and mercy is to live free. When we do, our faith begins to have practical power. This power is the workings of the Holy Spirit in us. Verse 15 says, "But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. 16 And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. "



**PRAYER** Heavenly Father when I refused to admit I sin against you I am being egotistical. Forgive me Lord Jesus as I confess my sin now. Help me to realize my sins have casue me so much emotional and spiritual pain. I groan to healed and to be set free. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### THURSDAY 3/2/23

Psalm 32: 1-7// 4 Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.

Romans 5:12-19 // 17 For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

**REFLECTION** Repentance starts with having a regretful acknowledgment of our sin and it's effect on our relationships with others. When we confess we sinners with a heart of darkness we are accepting God's Will for our lives. By being honest with ourselves, we know that we need forgiveness. This only comes by God's grace alone. This "one way love" from God invites us to be loved by Him through Jesus Christ. When Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment, He replied, "To love God with all your heart mind and soul." We are not capable of truly loving God or others until we first have been loved by God. The grace of God is sent to us in Jesus Christ. This love of Christ is so much more powerful to save, than Adam was to destroy. Grace means the free goodness of God or gratuitous love, of which He has given us a proof in Christ. He was give to us to relieve our misery. The gift is the fruit of this mercy, that comes to us. We are reconciled to God by which we have obtained eternal life. Our salvation from Christ, who's righteousness, give us newness of life, and every other kind of blessings.

**PRAYER** Every day the sun raises, Your hand, O'God, is upon me. Sometimes your discipline is to heavy I become discouraged. Lift me up by your love O'God and give to me Your Spirit to strength. As I reflect on my life this holy season, help me to find true peace. In Jesus Name, Amen

### FRIDAY 3/3/23

Psalm 32: 1-7 // 5 Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Romans 5:12-19 // 18 Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.

**REFLECTION** Lent is a time to draw closer to God by repenting and fasting. The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, where we mark our foreheads with ash as a sign we are saddened by our sin and the harm it causes others. Daniel 9:3, "Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes." Esther 4:3, "There was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes." Jesus is always ready and willingly to guide us when we lament and cry out. He helps us to overcome our destructive desire. God fixes our sinful desires. Because of the offense of one man, Adam, we were made sinners with destructive desire leading to death. However, this one fully righteous man named Jesus Christ, effectually justifies us in order for us to be reunited with God. The doctrine of "Justification in Christ alone" means Jesus did not live just for himself. His righteousness was provided for us and He gives it out as a gift to us who call upon His name. When we do, He readily surrounds us with His love which instantly feeds our soul with true faith. Our renewed faith accepts Him as our Savior. Jesus makes this favor common to all who believe without seeing. Justification of life is remission of our sin so we are restored to true life in God. This Lenten season please take time to embrace Jesus' righteousness. He satisfies the Will (justice) of His Father by dying on the Cross. Jesus now provides us this righteousness, so we might stand before the right and holy God on Judgment Day.

**PRAYER I confessed all my sins to You Lord Jesus and no longer desire to hide my guilt and shame before you. Praise You for hearing my plea. Bless You for taking my guilt away. IJNA**

### SATURDAY 3/4/23

Psalm 32: 1-7 // 6 Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment. 7 For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.

Romans 5:12-19 // 19 But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

**REFLECTION** We are invited by the Holy Spirit to pray outloud in order to improve our intimate relationship with God. By doing so, we are strengthened by the Spirit and become more disciplined in our lives. Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Matthew 26:41, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." The Bible is clear, we are guilty through the offense of one man, Adam, and are condemned to be eternally separated from the love of God: something that is worse than death. However, there is another man, Jesus Christ, who declares that we are made righteous through His obedience to the Will of the His Father. He completely satisfies the Father's desires by providing the sacrifice of His life for our sins. In this act alone, Jesus procures righteousness to be given to us. So, let us not be fooled by others who told that we seek this righteousness and justification by our works. Heaven forbid! Let God's grace overshadow this Lenten season, and let it rise you up in strength and courage.

**PRAYER Lord God, thank You for giving me time to repent and recieve your Son's righteousness before the Day of Judgemnt. Thank you for your Son my Lord Jesus who I hide behind. In Jesus Name, Amen.**



*Psalm 32: 1-7 NLT // Romans 5:12-19 NLT*

**Rev Bruce J VanDer Kolk**