

# The Psalms

## (Lesson 8)

### Introduction:

1. The Psalms deserve our careful attention because:
  - a. they are part of the Old Testament Scriptures (Luke 24:44)
  - b. they "*were written for our learning*" (Romans 15:4).
2. In this lesson we are examining Psalm 51, "David's prayer for forgiveness."
3. Before studying Psalm 51, let us review the reasons why David's prayer was necessary.
  - a. (2 Samuel 11:2-3) David first coveted another man's wife (Exodus 20:17).
  - b. (2 Samuel 11:4) David committed adultery with Bathsheba (Exodus 20:14).
  - c. (2 Samuel 11:5-17) David had Uriah killed (Exodus 20:13).
  - d. David's deeds "*displeased the Lord*" (2 Samuel 11:27b).
  - e. (2 Samuel 12:1-14) David finally acknowledged that he had sinned after Nathan confronted him.

### Discussion:

- I. DAVID ASKED GOD REPEATEDLY TO FORGIVE HIM
  - A. vs.1
    1. David asked God to:
      - a. have mercy upon him
      - b. blot out his transgressions.
    2. David based his requests upon God's "*lovingkindness*" and "*tender mercies.*"
  - B. (vs.2) David asked God to wash and cleanse him.
  - C. (vs.7) David asked God to purge and wash him.
  - D. (vs.9) David asked God to hide His face from his sins and to blot out his iniquities.
  - E. (vs.10a) David asked God to create a clean heart within him.
  - F. (vs.14a) David asked God to deliver him from "*bloodguiltiness.*"
- II. DAVID ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS ACTIONS
  - A. (vs.3) David acknowledged his transgressions, and he was constantly aware of them.
  - B. (vs.4) David knew that he had sinned against God by transgressing His will.
  - C. (vs.5-6) Even though David was born into a world of iniquity, this did not excuse his behavior.
- III. DAVID WANTED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD TO BE RESTORED
  - A. David made this request in:
    1. vs.8
    2. vs.10b
    3. vs.11
    4. vs.12.
  - B. David indicated that his relationship with God affected his worship in:
    1. vs.14b
    2. vs.15
    3. vs.16-17, 19.
  - C. David understood that his relationship with God affected other people.
    1. His ability to convert sinners was affected (vs.13).
    2. His ability to lead in Jerusalem was also affected (vs.18).
  - D. Psalm 51 illustrates the principles Solomon later recorded in Proverbs 28:13.