



# APPNOTES

**Date:** November 26-30, 2018

**Series:** God With Us

**Psalm 51:1-19** This is one heavy passage of scripture. David is just pouring out his heart after he was confronted with his sin of adultery. David, being a natural poet, uses words like a weaver uses threads in a tapestry to create a full picture of his sorrow. I don't know about you, but when I'm heavy hearted over the wrong I do, I can only get out, 'I'm so sorry'. And that's okay. If you look at verse 17, our only requirement, if you will, is to be contrite - which is expressing remorse. More than that, the scripture tells us that God doesn't get annoyed with us or disappointed! And the best part is, when we're in that state of true repentance, God steps in and does great things in us. He renews us and sets us back on the path we need to go. All we need to do is unburden ourselves and allow him to lift us up!

**Psalm 32:1-11** Sometimes, when I really mess up, I want to hold on to it. I engage my self-righteousness and definitively state, 'I wasn't the one who was in the wrong!'. But it never holds up under the eyes of God who knows all. I become like that horse or mule talked about in verse 9, too foolish to come back to Him without a bridle pulling me. Ugh, why do I do that? Is it really worth it to hold onto my pride when it makes me so out of joint with God and those around me? When I finally give up and repent of what I've done, all I face is relief and the love of God. I'm back in God's favor. And as the author, David, concludes in this passage, we can shout for joy, because, finally, we have a clean heart!

**Psalm 130:1-8** Verse 3 really grabbed my attention: "If You, Lord, should keep an account of our sins and treat us accordingly, O Lord, who could stand [before you in judgment and claim innocence] (AMP)." If God kept a record of all my sin and treated me like I deserved...whoa. Yeah, there would be no standing. But as I read on, this Psalm wraps up with some of the most beautiful encouragement a sinner like me needs to hear: "There is forgiveness in You.." and "For with the Lord there is lovingkindness, and with Him is abundant redemption..." Did you catch that? Abundant redemption, so much forgiveness that there's more than we can use. God doesn't want to keep tally; He only wants to pour out forgiveness. Let's run and get some of that. Let's not wait.

**James 4:7-10** James is a pretty practical guy. He lays it all out and says things the way they are. He's telling us that we need to get serious about our sin. After all, that is what put Christ on the cross and separates us from God and from others. Seeing sin for what it really is, something very grievous and heavy, and not something just to be shrugged off, helps us avoid it in the future. If you drive down a certain road, and it's all pitted with potholes and you get a busted tire from it, yeah, you're gonna remember not to go down that road again. So, embracing the deep truth of our sin is hard, but also beneficial. Even as pragmatic as James is, calling us out boldly, he finishes this section by reminding us there is a God who, after finding us on our knees in confession, wants to lift us right back up. God's end game is always restoration.

**1 John 1:8-9** I'm a grammar nerd. I love how words break down and you can find a far deeper meaning than what appears on the surface. This is a passage of scripture that does just that. Here John is reminding us that if we (freely) confess our sins that God is just and forgives. But if you dig into the word 'just' you find that it breaks down to 'true to God's nature and His promises'. That little word packs a lot in there, huh! Why does that matter? When I begin to doubt that God can forgive one of my sins, because I think it's too big, or I've committed it 8,947 times, I remember that God is just: it's His nature to forgive. He can't not forgive! One more for you: John then states that God will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. The implication of cleanse is not a one-time thing. In fact, it actually means "continuously cleanses." It's God's nature to forgive and keep cleansing our sins. Amazing stuff!

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