

Title: “Forgive us our trespasses”**[Slide 1]****Text: Psalm 32****BSoD****Psalm 32:****[Slide 2]**

The Psalm that we are going to look at this morning is Psalm 32. Let’s stand and read it together:

[Slide 2]

*Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.*

[Slide 3]

*When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.*

*For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.*

[Slide 4]

*Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD."
And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.*

[Slide 5]

*Therefore let all the faithful pray to you
while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.*

*You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.*

[Slide 6]

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*

*Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.*

[Slide 7]

*Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.*

*Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!*

BSoD:**[Slide 8]**

You only have to see it once to know you and your computer are in deep trouble. It's called the Blue Screen of Death, or BSoD. The BSoD is an error screen informing you that your computer has just suffered a *fatal system error*. It can be caused by all sorts of things: bad hardware, bad memory, overheating, or faulty software. No matter the cause, the result is the same: you're done. Your computer isn't going to keep on doing whatever it was doing. Just hope it restarts!

People have had some fun with the old BSoD.

[Slide 9 – curtain]**[Slide 10 -- cockpit]**

But in reality nobody ever wants to let things get to that point when they are on their computer. The BSoD indicates an *epic fail*.

BSoD of the Soul:

Psalm 32 is a song about a different and far more devastating BSoD: the BSoD of the soul. The song begins with a blessing and an assumption:

[Slide 11]

Psalm 32:1-2 NIV

*Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.*

David does *not* say, "Blessed is the one who never sinned." Instead, David confronts us with the reality that each and every one of us is infected with that *virus of the soul* we call sin. It's like a defective Operating System that continually corrupts our thoughts and actions. Paul pictured Sin as the evil force that enslaves us:

[Slide 12]

Romans 6:20-21 NIV

When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!

Let the virus of Sin run its programs in your life and eventually you crash and burn: the Blue Screen of Death of the Soul.

But when we choose the path to God's forgiveness, the opposite happens. We discover the true happiness and fulfillment that God intended for us.

Happy is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them!

The Downward Spiral:

Bad things happen when we try to ignore or hide from the broken and corrupted areas of our lives. Like an untreated infection, or a virus lurking on a hard drive, Sin continues to do its destructive work. It doesn't go away.

David paints a picture of the downward spiral caused by in confessed and unforgiven Sin:

[Slide 13]

Psalms 32:3-4 NIV

*When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.*

*For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.*

At first it might seem like a personal failing is too embarrassing or shameful to confess. We make excuses. We blame others. We try to bury the past. But God wired us for *justice* and *purity*. When something is residing in our souls that is contrary to how He made us, it makes us sick, sad, depressed. It throws off our relationships. It wears us down and destroys everything we

most deeply value. It condemns us to a Downward Spiral into more and more deceit and delusion. Ultimately we start seeing the BSoD of the soul flashing on the screen.

Time to make a change!

Coming Home

The Turn:

[Slide 14]

As a young man, Augustine of Hippo ran from the reality of his brokenness and sin. In the year A.D. 386, after much spiritual disillusionment and searching, he was outdoors and heard a child singing, "Pick it up and read it; pick it up and read it." He took this to be a word from God, opened a Bible and read the first thing he saw:

[Slide 15]

Romans 13:13-14 NIV

Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

In that very moment, his Blue Screen of Death vanished and the New Life of Jesus began to shine in his soul. As he so beautifully put it:

[Slide 16]

"You called and shouted and burst my deafness. You flashed, shone, and scattered my blindness. You breathed odors, and I drew in breath and panted for You. I tasted, and I hunger and thirst. You touched me, and I burned for Your peace." (St. Augustine, Confessions)

Forgiveness!

David described this *turn* with these words:

[Slide 17]

Psalm 32:5 NIV

*Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD."
And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.*

I and You. No longer is David the guilty man hiding from himself, from others and from God. No longer is David spiraling deeper and deeper into the dark. With a simple, yet powerful choice, he turns the corner. He confesses his transgressions to the LORD, and God forgives.

Coming home:

Remember how David began by telling us that there were great blessings in being forgiven? Now he spells them out for us:

[Slide 18]

Psalm 32:6-7 NIV

*Therefore let all the faithful pray to you
while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.*

*You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.*

Instead of hiding *from* our brokenness and failures, our sin and deception, David says that God becomes our hiding place. He protects us from trouble. He surrounds us with victory songs. He brings us home, from Exile to Exodus. All we have to do is come clean and trust Him to forgive.

"Forgive us our trespasses..."

System Restore:

If your computer presents you with the dreaded BSoD there are some things you can and must do. You will need to *reboot*. You will need to run in *safe*

mode, and ferret out defective programs. You will need to *scan for viruses*. And then, when the computer is clean, you can proceed to *system restore*.

The same is true for the viruses of the soul. We need to reboot, get cleaned up, and let God's Holy Spirit do His all-powerful System Restore!

God promises to install His proper Operating System:

[Slide 19]

Psalm 32:8 NIV

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*

David warns us not to revert to our old Operating System. We're not to be like a stubborn mule that can must be controlled by bit and bridle. Instead, we follow God's lead alone. His Holy Spirit *is* God's Operating System. No viruses.

The blessings of Forgiveness:

What a joy to be free of guilt and secret shame! What a joy to be home at last – safe in God's care. As David puts it:

[Slide 20]

Psalm 32:10-11 NIV

*Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.*

*Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!*

We're surrounded by that same covenant love that David wrote about in Psalm 23 – the love that follows and pursues us "all the days of my life."

As St. Augustine said:

[Slide 21]

"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."

"Forgive us our trespasses..."

No wonder, then, that Jesus made the request for forgiveness the central request in the Lord's Prayer! It is the key to everything else. It banishes the BSoD of sin and death in our lives and unlocks the new, fresh Operating System of the Holy Spirit.

The apostle John, writing to fellow Christians, cautioned them against keeping silent in their sins:

[Slide 22]

1 John 1:8 NIV

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Instead, like David, he urged them to turn the corner:

1 John 1:9 NIV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

God will keep faith with His covenant with us. He will not go back on His word. Because Jesus died to take away our sins, God will declare us forgiven, "not guilty."

But the turn from darkness to light, slavery to freedom, deception to truth begins with you and me. It begins when like David we dare to say:

"I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."