

The Blameless Judge
Psalm 51:1-4
Charlie Brackett

Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness;
According to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
And my sin is ever before me.
Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned,
And done what is evil in Thy sight,
So that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak,
And blameless when Thou dost judge.

This prayer of David's ought to evoke the deepest personal feelings on the part of each one of us. It is a prayer with which we can identify. Someone may object, "I don't want to be identified with that prayer; it speaks of sin!" David *had* sinned and his sins were terrible: adultery, murder and deceit. But we *can* identify with David's sins. And we should. Not that we have sinned in the same ways he did, but because all sin is terrible before God and every one of us is a sinner.

The very thought of our own sins ought to drive us to our knees in contrite petition. "Wash me from my iniquity, Lord. Cleanse me from my sin. Blot out my transgressions for my sin is ever before me." Oh, that our sins might be always before us, burned into our consciousness and so keenly felt that we might be driven to the Savior with a mournful plea that they be taken away. Unfortunately, we have become comfortable with our sins; we ignore them; we even joke about them. But not David.

And consider this. Every sin we commit is a sin against God. God created us. He made us to be loving, obedient and humble. When we go beyond or fall short of what He desires of us, we have sinned. Sin is transgression of God's law so every sin is evil in God's sight and is an offense against God Himself.

But, lest we become consumed with the pain of our sins, let me hasten to point out that this is a wonderfully comforting prayer. David addressed his appeal to a gracious God. He spoke freely of God's loving kindness and of His great compassion. It is not necessary that we measure up to some standard in order to obtain God's forgiveness. That is not possible. We are unworthy, but God is gracious and loving and we can call on Him as a compassionate and forgiving God. Though you sin, be joyous that we have such a God. He has redeemed us!

One last observation. God is a blameless judge. He is our standard to strive for, to be measured against. And He never changes. If we drift, He is always there to come home to. He is always there to hear our prayers and to forgive.