

Message Reminders and Review: Read Psalm 32.

1. Jesus claimed to be God and said He came to seek and to save sinners. An empty grave gives proof that He is who He said He was and He did what He came to do.
2. If we agree with Jesus' claim and confess that He is God and believe that God raised Jesus from the dead for our salvation, then we will be saved.
3. In **Psalm 32**, the Psalmist declares the enduring happiness of having our rebellion removed, our sin put out of sight, our bent made straight and our debt not counted.

In **Romans 4**, the Apostle Paul says the same thing concerning those whom the Lord forgives and counts as righteous - not because of their religious effort, but because of their faith in what God has done for them in Jesus.

4. You can try to hide your sin and experience it as a crushing burden, - or you can confess your sin to God and experience forgiveness and being hidden in Him. [Psalm 32:3-7]
Many sorrows come to those who refuse to trust in the Lord. Unfailing love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. [Psalm 32:10]

Questions for meditation from Sunday's message:

Those who try to earn their forgiveness and merit their acceptance with God by their religious life are never sure of their ledger and standing with Him. They miss out on joy, security, and unfailing love.

Those who believe God, and experience His merciful forgiveness and gracious acceptance, stand joyfully secure in their position with God because of His faithfulness and unfailing love.

- a. What are the characteristic differences between forgiven sinners and those who strive to be religiously meticulous? (Think forgiven prostitute and Pharisee.)
- b. How is the good news of being saved solely by God's grace difficult to be received in our praise-seeking culture?
- c. Does your life exemplify joy, security and unfailing love – or the fearful striving to achieve forgiveness and acceptance? (Is Jesus sufficient – or do you need to add to your efforts as well?)
- d. What connection is there between Jesus' death and resurrection and your life today?