# Sin Is Ever Before Me

**Tony Mauck** · Psalm 51

## INTRODUCTION

- One's introduction into the things of God begins with repentance.
- I think sometimes we're in such a hurry to get the baptism in its role that we may skip over the equally important act of repentance.
- By the time Psalm 51 is written, David has progressed from how can I cover my tracks to how can I treat God this way?

## 1 Linger Long Over the Tragedy of Sin

**2 Corinthians 7:11; Psalm 51:3–4; 1 John 1:9**

- I believe it is important that we learn from Psalm 51 the need to linger long over the tragedy of what has been done.
- It is a sorrow focused on what I have done to God that produces repentance.
- We must not confuse real repentance with mere confession.
- He took some time to sit down and write the words of Psalm 51 that would be an expression of his godly sorrow. He lingered long over his sin.
- For I know my transgressions. And my sin is ever before me. Against thee and thee only I have sinned and done what is evil in thy sight.
- Don't take it easy on yourself in fixing sin. Because if you think about it wasn't a really easy fix for God.

## 2 Acknowledge Painfully the Sin

**Psalm 6:1–4; Psalm 130:1–3; Psalm 51:4**

- David sheds real tears. How long has it been since there was any real shedding of tears in our commission of sin?
- Out of the depths I cried to thee, O Lord, hear my voice.
- If thou, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand.
- Confession is good for the soul. And indeed it is. But it's hard on the ego. And that's not a bad thing.
- Sin is high treason. Against thee and thee only I have sinned.

## 3 Purify Me and I Shall Be Clean

**Psalm 51:7–14**

- Purify me with hyssop and I shall be clean. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
- Hide thy face from my iniquities and blot out all my iniquities.
- Do not cast me away from thy presence, and do not take thy Holy Spirit from me.

- Deliver me from my blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation.
- Repentance is not something that can be simply done once and for all and left behind.

## 4 Commit Firmly to a New Course

**Psalm 51:10–17**

- David committed firmly to a new course. And that's what repentance must do.
- Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and sustain me with the willing spirit, and then I will teach transgressors thy way, and sinners will be converted to thee.
- What he wants even more, David says, is the sacrifice of a broken spirit and a broken heart.

THE CHALLENGE

Do you still grieve over sin? There may have been a time when your heart was pierced like those on the day of Pentecost, where you felt great sorrow for your sin?

MY NOTES