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BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN IS FORGIVEN

Mario Dučić, CEO Pulpit Series is sent out monthly free of charge. If you would like to be added to our mailing list and receive these messages on a regular basis please send your request to: ceo@cce.hr
November 2007.

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit." (Psalm 32:1-2)

I believe the Lord has given me a message through His word about the blessings of confessed sin and the consequences that await those who carry on in their sinful life and refuse to repent.

There are some believers who experience constant trouble. Guilt and anxiety are visible in their countenances; they are lifeless and lack the joy of the Lord which should be their strength. This condition is not brought about by persecution for gospel's sake or because they firmly hold to God's Word;

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rather because of sin, iniquity, and continual disobedience to the Lord.

Only true repentance will restore life and joy and eliminate the guilt and trouble in which we have so long found ourselves because of disobedience. Repentance will bring us God's blessings. These blessings will not only be manifest in us but will also pour out spiritual renewal on those around us.

▶ **1. BELIEVERS OFTEN FIND THEMSELVES IN THIS CONDITION WHEN THEY CEASE TO ALLOW GOD TO RENEW THEM FOR HIS WORK.**

Psalm 32 and 51 are David's prayers of repentance and renewal, which were addressed to the Lord after he sinned by committing adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. David did not only commit adultery, which he sought to cover up by trying to entice Uriah to sleep with Bathsheba, but he also committed murder by commanding Joab his captain

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to put Uriah in the first line of battle where, as the Word say, *"the most valiant men were"*- who also died because of David's conspiracy. **(2 Samuel 11:16-17)**

While it is difficult for us to accept David in this light this is nothing strange in regards to sin. After the conspiracy and murder we find David so completely unfeeling and numbed by sin that when he heard that Uriah and the soldiers were dead he told Joab not to take it to heart, *"Then David said to the messenger, 'Thus you shall say to Joab: "Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it." So encourage him."* **(2 Samuel 11:25)**

We must ask ourselves how David, who was known for his compassion and grace, became so hardened to such a sad situation. If we read a little earlier in the first chapter it seems that we see a totally different David; we read that when he heard that Saul and Jonathan had died he wept and mourned for them. **(2 Samuel 1:11)** Yet here, in chapter 11, we see him in another light; completely unfeeling and deliberately killing his own fellow citizen, a brave warrior for God – Uriah! How is it that David felt guilty for dwelling *"...in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains"* **(2 Samuel 7:2)** and yet five chapters later

tries to persuade Uriah to rest from war with little care for the Ark of God and his fellow warriors sleeping under the stars?

When David tried to send Uriah home to bathe, rest, and be with his wife Uriah had compassion for his fellow warriors who were in battle and camping in the open field with the Ark of the Covenant; he did not want to rest while the war was going on, rather he wanted to continue being active in the work of God: *“The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.”* **(2 Samuel 11:11)**

David is like many Christians today, he deserted his goals and instead of active service to the Lord he stayed home and subsequently fell into sin.

This kind of fall always takes place, for centuries it is the same. Believers never seem to learn from historic examples; the reason for this is that many have so hardened their hearts that they not only continue living in sin (regardless of the fact that they continue going to church) but they fail to fulfill the life purpose that God has for them. Because of hardheadedness, laziness, and deceit many become like David and fall

into sin. They no sooner shift their focus from Jesus onto themselves and this world than they set themselves up for a fall. While other believers are seeking for revival they are going to the movies or the mall. While one gives himself to prayer and study late into the night they give themselves to the television. While one goes evangelizing they go play football; while one is consumed with the kingdom of God and souls they are consumed with buying new toys. And all of a sudden we are shocked with the news that they have fallen away. Actually they fell away some time ago but it was not obvious until now.

It's always the same pattern – believers pray and read their Bibles for a while, are filled with the joy of salvation and share with others the gospel; they can hardly wait for the next gathering. However, after some time they slowly stop coming as often, they begin praying less and become less involved in the ministry. When this takes place they find themselves caught in the traps of immorality, lies,

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deception, resentment, drugs, animosity, disobedience, and all kinds of emotional games. And we wonder why they don't come to church. But best of all is their excuse – the one we hear most often – “Nobody loves me”.

Sin will desensitize us and harden our hearts; consequently we will cease to care for the house of God and lost souls. We will live contrary to biblical principles (there are some who dislike the word “principle”). The end for us will be as it was for David, sin will not affect only us but those around us as well – our children and our loved ones. We will be filled with turmoil and trouble and the consequences will destroy our life. Guilt will then grow greater and greater; the joy of our salvation will wane, we will stop bearing fruit, we will come to the house of God less and less often and slowly stop caring for the ministry. We may possibly carry on an outward display of goodness and religiosity (however without power and strength), but not for long. This kind of condition has no value to the Lord; in this state we will surely never be effective.

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▶ **2. BLESSINGS COME TO THOSE BELIEVERS WHOSE SINS ARE FORGIVEN AND COVERED.**

“Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sin is covered.” (Psalm 32:1)

The Hebrew word used here for blessed is *esher* and similar to the word *ashar* meaning to be successful. It's impossible to be blessed or successful for God (in a godly way) if we are constantly living in disobedience to Him. We may have more money or a bigger congregation but that is not necessarily a sign of God's blessing. Actually, if we continue living in sin and wish to ignore the fact that we are not living as we ought, greater destruction will take place. We will wear our religious mask for two or three hours but when the night falls we will find ourselves once again in sorrow because, as it was for David, God's hand will be heavy on us day and night until we confess our sins and allow Him to remove the guilt in our lives that prevents us from being blessed: *“When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer.” (Psalm 32:3-4)*

This pressure from God often results in continual fatigue and passivity because we lack the strength for His work; we may be

able to mentally consent to His Word and want to serve Him but our disobedience will not allow us to. For His work we need His strength and a pure heart! It is not strange that we labor so hard for church and personal plans without real results. God will not hear our prayers when we ease our conscience with outward appearances of good while still refusing to confess to God that we are sinners.

If necessary we will clean the church day and night and feed the hungry but we will not submit to God's Word and pray. We find the will to do all sorts of things that are necessary to serve others but we will not give our tithe and offerings nor find the will to submit to those whom God has placed in authority over our lives. We will do all we can to avoid confessing our guilt.

God is not interested in the sacrifices we give to ease our conscience, rather he wants a contrite heart and spirit: *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise."* (Psalm 51:17) We must realize that when we sin we don't just sin against man we sin against God. David didn't sin against Bathsheba or Uriah but violated God's commands and offended Him. This is what we often forget when we sin, that we sin against God. Although David committed adultery and murder, he confessed his sin

when he said: *"Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight"*

(Psalm 51:4a)

When David spoke of God seeking for a "broken spirit" the word "broken" used in Hebrew describes a spirit needing to be broken and torn in pieces before God – this is what God really wants of us. To break before God does not mean to come with good works and a proper spirit – because God is not interested in how much money we give or how many tracks we hand out, but rather if we are sorry for our sin. Are we so sincerely sorry that we will no longer commit that offense again?

Do we honestly wish to repent of disunity? Do we truly want to repent for murmuring and complaining; for slander, fornication, materialism, unforgiveness, and theft? In the end what are we really saved from if there is no difference between us and the world? Do we really want to repent, leave our comfort zones and put Christ and His desires above our own or are we holding ourselves back?

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David said: *“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”*

(Psalm 51:5) To confess doesn’t mean to merely open our lips and say, “I confess” but it means we agree with Him when He says we were “shapen in sin”, that He meant we are sinners, that what we want is sinful, and that we must turn from our own ways.

God wants to forgive our sins because only in forgiveness of sin is His blessing and strength. We must not continue living in sin because of the resulting consequences. God will not hold our sins against us if we confess then, turn from them, and become obedient to His Word. It is in His nature to always forgive.

After disquiet of heart, which came from the Lord, David finally confessed and said: *“I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD;’ And You forgave*

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the iniquity of my sin.” (Psalm 32:5) God freed him from guilt and blessed him; however he had to bear the consequences of his bad decision.

► **3. AFTER WE CONFESS AND TURN FROM SIN BLESSINGS APPEAR IN MANY WAYS IN OUR LIFE WITH CHRIST.**

When our sins are forgiven and guilt is washed away it will be manifest in our walk with the Lord that we are obedient to God and that we no longer live in sin.

The first way blessings occur is that the joy of our salvation will once again manifest just as it did when we were first saved. Sin brings with itself the feeling that we are far from God; this is why our faces are often downcast even though we continue going to church to keep up a good appearance. When we confess and turn away from our sins our faces will once again glow with the joy of salvation. Even though we may have to bear earthly consequences of our disobedience God will return to us our joy because we have renewed our relationship with Him.

Along with joy, I believe that repentance and turning from sin will also eliminate troubling cares – once again we will have confidence as sons and daughters in Him. After David

confessed his sin he said, "...*You shall preserve me from trouble...*" (**Psalm 32:7**)

Secondly, spiritual renewal (revival) and effective evangelism will take place when true repentance transpires. David said, "*Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You...Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.*" (**Psalm 51:13,18**)

It's impossible for us to have spiritual renewal, to teach sinners about the kingdom, and to see true results while at the same time we are sinning against God and living in constant disobedience to Him. Repentance and forgiveness always precedes revival and personal spiritual renewal. Revival is intended for the church because so many Christians have fallen asleep, are paralyzed in their sin and disobedience and cease to grow spiritually. When the church finally confesses her sin God can use her once again, but until then the number of believers will either fall or will stagnate.

When guilt ceases we will have more strength to testify because our mind will be fixed on others and our lives will reflect the true gospel. I believe that, as a result of repentance, will God renew His church in new glory!

The third way that blessings occur in our life is that God will no longer need to lead

us through troubling times to get our attention; instead we will be willing to respond to His voice and His ways: "*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.*" (**Psalm 32:8-9**)

Someone once said to me, "Either I will humble myself or God will humble me." Either way, we all must humble ourselves before Him in order to know His will and discover His ways.

What often happens is that we commit sin, disobey or resist Him leaving Him no other choice but to lead us like horses or mules by bit and bridle symbolizing discipline and punishment brought to us so God can use us. Unfortunately, for some this is the only way God can lead because they don't have any relationship with Him other than when they are in trouble. These are the kind of Christians who awaken and become active in church only when

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problems begin pressing in and when the problems are resolved they either withdraw or disappear for a time – like those asleep. This kind of relationship with God is very shallow for they must constantly be under God’s correction and discipline in order to stay alive – very often these believers do not live for Jesus rather they want Jesus to live for them. They are not completely surrendered to Him or His kingdom.

Repentance and turning from sin enables God at last to lead us willingly step by step without coercion by the Holy Spirit. This is what God wants for us in order that He be glorified. Therefore, we must confess our sins, turn from our disobedient ways; this means that according to all that is said we must sincerely delineate those sins and walk away from them. This is how God’s blessings will be made

known and revealed through spiritual revival and in a true relationship with God. Only through repentance and forgiveness will we be able to walk in peace with God with a cleansed and justified heart and a renewed spirit and be able to do His work with a greater passion than before that shouts with joy, *“Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!” (Psalm 32:11)*

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