

Psalm 51

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy

blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin!

³ For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you may be justified in your words

and blameless in your judgment.

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence,

and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹⁵ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,

O God of my salvation,

and my tongue will sing aloud of your

righteousness.

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would

give it;

you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not

despise.

¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;

build up the walls of Jerusalem;

¹⁹ then will you delight in right sacrifices,

in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;

then bulls will be offered on your altar.

The Good Life

'How to be forgiven'

Psalm 51

Dealing with guilt...

1. God's mercy is our only plea for forgiveness (1-9)

God's mercy... (1-2)

...and nothing else... (3-6)

...gives us confidence for forgiveness. (7-9)

2. God's mercy leads to overflowing joy (10-19)

The joy of Salvation... (10-12)

...overflows to others. (13-15)

True worship (16-19)

Next week

How to be happy

Psalm 1

Speaker: Philip Robinson