

PSALM 51

The fourth of the 7 penitential Psalm (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143), the best known and, for those overwhelmed with guilt, sorrow and the consequences of sin, the most touching and comforting. *Background: 2 Sam. 11-12.*

Verses 1-2 The plea for God's mercy that flows from His steadfast love, not ours! There is no other course that can be taken. We are, by nature, sinful and unclean (Rom. 3:9-12, 20).

- A. **Sin** - to miss the mark. Failure to live according to God's absolute standard.
- B. **Transgression** - to intentionally choose to disobey. Willful sin; doing something we know we shouldn't, or not doing something we know we should. Tell a lie. Run a stop sign.
- C. **Iniquity** - to continue in a sin without repentance. Pre-meditated choice/crooked behavior (Micah 2:1).

Verse 3 "...my sin is ever before me." Always on my mind.

Verse 4 "Against you, you only have I sinned..." - Gen. 20:6; 2 Sam. 12:13.

Verse 5 See Gen 8:21; Eph. 2:3.

Verse 6 Whoever gives in to sin is a fool. Wisdom is in the secret heart. Ps. 37:30-31.

Verse 7 Hyssop was used in ceremonial cleansing - Lev. 14:1-7 (blood); Num. 19:14-19 (water).

Verse 8 2 Sam. 12:13; Rom. 8:1; Eph. 2:4,5.

Verses 9-13 Ps. 103:10-12; Heb. 10:16-17.

Verse 14-16 "bloodguiltiness" - from taking the life of Uriah.

Verse 17 Consider 2 Chron. 34:26-27; Is. 57:15.

Verses 18-19 "then will you delight in right sacrifices..." - See Ps. 50:14-15; Heb. 13:15.