

CP - 7/23/23

Psalm of Summer - Psalm 51 - The Seriousness of Sin

*Billy Sunday: "One reason sin flourishes is that it is treated like a cream puff instead of a rattlesnake."

*Malcolm Muggeridge: "The depravity of man is at once the most empirically verifiable reality, but at the same time the most intellectually resisted fact."

*Billy Graham: "Self-centered indulgence, pride, and a lack of shame over sin are now emblems of the American lifestyle."

1. The Sickening Nature of Sin (Psalm 51:1-5)

*Sin is transgression (rebellion) against God.

*Sin is iniquity (perversity, wickedness) against God.

*Sin is sin (failure, missing the mark) against God.

*Sin is evil (morally & ethically bad) against God.

"What is sin? It is the glory of God not honored. The holiness of God not revered. The greatness of God not admired. The power of God not praised. The truth of God not sought. The wisdom of God not esteemed. The beauty of God not treasured. The goodness of God not savored. The faithfulness of God not trusted. The commandments of God not obeyed. The justice of God not respected. The wrath of God not feared. The grace of God not cherished. The presence of God not prized. The person of God not loved. That is sin." (John Piper)

2. The Collision Course with Sin (2 Samuel 11:1-5)

"The sin of casualness leads to carelessness, which develops into callousness."
(Adrian Rogers)

*David ran 8 red lights:

1. Neglecting War (11:1)

2. Laziness/Idleness (11:2a)

3. First glance, First look (11:2b)

4. Investigation (11:3a)

5. Word of Caution (11:3b)

6. Moving on with the Plan (11:4a)

7. Last Chance (11:4b)

8. The Attempt to Cover-up (11:5-27)

"It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into nothing. Murder is no better than lies if lying does the trick." (CS Lewis)

3. The Destructive Effects of Sin (Psalm 51)

“Sin takes you where than you don’t want to go, keeps you longer than you want to stay, costs you more than you want to pay.”

“Sin thrills, then it kills. First it fascinates, then it assassinates. There’s no winning the sin game.”

*Sin is always first and foremost against God, bringing judgment. (4)

*Believers - disruption of fellowship/discipline

*Unbelievers - eternal punishment

*Sin brings death/destruction to others (14, 18)

*We cannot escape the judgment and guilt of our sin except through Jesus Christ.

“The essence of sin is we human beings substituting ourselves for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for us. We...put ourselves where only God deserves to be; God...puts himself where we deserve to be.” (John Stott)