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Reading - Psalm 51 v 1-10, v 15-17

This is a record of a man under deep conviction of sin. Having committed crimes and been discovered and that he stood condemned before God. The Psalmist was David.

Sin is against God because our responsibility before God is first although sin may cover a wider scope. Sin is a very serious business. The psalmist appreciated the enormity of sin. Society excuses sin and paints it in a bright picture. It blames the environment people live in for the way people turn out.

In this psalm we can see
the problem,
the need and
the remedy.

Recognition of the need generated the cry, "Wash me", "Cleanse me" and "Purge me".

Problem

Sin - that contrary to God
- Not only what I do but what I am
- I am a sinner- innately sinful - have a sinful nature

Taking us back to Adam and Eve as they sinned in Eden because they sinned we are born with a sinful nature.

Transgressions - Stepping over a boundary. Pushing the boundaries. It doesn't matter how far across the line you go.

Iniquity - Looks at our will and how perverse we can be. We know what's right and what's wrong. We know what we want, in God's view we become guilty and stained.

We can't curtail men's nature and men's desire.

The world today doesn't see the problem for what it is.

We make things allowable which were once illegal.

Need

We need to see ourselves as God sees us and those who have iniquity in our very nature. Sin defiles and makes dirty but it can't be cleaned with soap and water. "All as an unclean thing and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" (Isa 64:6)

The best we can do still leaves us as guilty sinners

Cleanse me - A stain deep into system - contamination.

Purge me - to make pure

Sin will keep us out of heaven

The “carat” is a measure of purity for a precious metal. It is obtained by the heat of the furnace. Impurities can be skimmed from metal to remove dross and leave behind what is essentially pure.

Who is the only one who can do this? God – It required the action of another applied to me.

David wants a clean heart. He can wash the external but not the internal (Matt 15:19). The heart need fundamental change (2 Cor 5:17)

Remedy

How can the need be met?

Only a work of God accomplished it.

It requires repentance and acknowledgment of sin and guilt, a turning away to a new and different way, seeing sin as God sees it and recognising horror of it.

We can change our way by acceptance of person of God and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is not in the mind but in the heart (Romans 10:9) – The key is believing in the heart.

The Lord Jesus Christ suffered outside the city wall on a rugged cross. If you accept Him as your personal Saviour you too can know deliverance. The sacrifice of Christ is sufficient to cover all my sins (Tit 2:14).

We are “justified” - there is no hint of guilt left on the record; it is wiped clean and the guilt completely removed. God remains just for the Lord Jesus Christ has died (Rom 3:19).

Salvation is of the Lord (Jonah 2:10).

All we need to do is to accept the provision God has made. We can have that change of heart by faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.