

Psalm 32ⁱⁱⁱ Deep Peace in Forgiveness.

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *(O God I know how deep the peace, the confidence of those whose sins have been forgiven,)* *

and whose sin is put away! *(whose hearts are healed!)*^{iv}

²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *(I know how blessed are those who live before their God without the weight of guilt,)* *

and in whose spirit there is no guile! *(their spirits free from evil stain.)*

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *(When I held back from speaking all my sins and shame to you my God,)* *

because of my groaning all day long. *(My pain grew worse, my body was consumed in your strong summer sun.)*

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *(I felt the pressure of your presence like a weight upon my soul)**

my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. *(and the effect of sin's strong toxic residue)*

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *(But when at last I spoke to say to say the same to you)**

and did not conceal my guilt. *(uncovering it all)*

⁶I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *(Acknowledge my sin, the guilt and shame,)**

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. *(you in your mercy, Lord, forgive in full, and I was free at last to live again.)*

⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *(Let all, then, who in distress of soul or troubles sink while all the waters rise,)**

when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them. *(pray this prayer in faith to you.)*

⁸You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble *(You are for each a hiding place, a refuge and a haven from the troubling storms.)**

you surround me with shouts of deliverance. *(Your ringing voice sounds out in victory, surrounding us with freedom and relief.)*

⁹“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *(You speak this word and say, "It is I who teach you on this path of life,)"* *

I will guide you with my eye. *(and I who am the guide along the way that you must go. My voice the counsel that you need, my eyes the guard.)*

¹⁰Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *(Do not be stubborn, then, like horse or mule that simply does not understand,)* *

who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”
(and is only led by bit or bridle in the hand.)

¹¹Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *(All this inflicts a greater pain on those whose only practice is the evil that they know)* *

but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. *(But those whose trust is God know kindness like a safe surrounding wall.)*

¹²Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *(Their souls are filled,)* *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. *(They shout their songs with exaltation loud with joy.)*

iii About the Psalm: Psalm 32

Psalm 32 is a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s forgiveness. It divides naturally into six sections tracing the pattern of reconciliation: verses 1-2 are an introduction; verses 3-4 express the weight of guilt; verse 5 is a confession of sin; verses 6-7 offer sound advice; in verses 8-9, God speaks; in verses 10-11, the psalmist rejoices in his changed status before God.

^{iv} The translation in parenthetical is from “Ancient Songs Sung Anew” by Lynn C. Bauman. It is his attempt to write the psalm as if it were written these days.