

**I. INTRODUCTION****A. Book Two of the Psalms – Psalm 42-72**

1. Theme: hard to identify. There are psalms of celebration, wisdom, thanksgiving, a love song (45), and many laments over difficulty.
2. Common Thread: if we look hard, we can find similarities between the Psalms in Book 2.
  - 17/31 Psalms were written by David (other authors being Asaph, Sons of Korah, and Solomon)
  - 21/31 deal with dark or difficult circumstances in life
  - 8 of them have a historical superscription, which is most of the historical Psalms (5 in Book I, 1 in Book V)
  - 27/31 contain “To the choirmaster”, which shows us they were clearly collected for corporate worship

**B. Psalm 51**

1. Look at the superscription: We see that it is intended for corporate worship, we see that the author is David, and we see the circumstances that led to its writing.
2. Historical context: 2 Samuel 11-12:15.

**C. David’s example of genuine repentance**

1. What does a true man after God’s own heart do when confronted with the reality of his sin? I think we find the answer to that question in Psalm 51.

**II. GENUINE CONFESSION v.1-6****A. Cry out for Mercy v.1-2**

1. The first thing David does when confronted with his sin is to cry out for mercy from God.
2. David’s appeal is 100% based on God’s character. Exodus 34:6-7
3. His cry for mercy is for God to mercifully wash him thoroughly and cleanse him. As opposed to the punishment he deserved.

**B. Acknowledge Guilt v.3-4**

Crying out for mercy is implicitly admitting guilt, but it was important for David to admit with his mouth that he is guilty, thereby agreeing that God is just, and it is David who is completely in the wrong.

**C. Acknowledge Sinfulness v.5-6**

1. He is acknowledging that his nature is sinful, and he needs to confess that as well. Romans 5:12, 15, 18, John 3:17-18, Psalm 53:2-3.
2. Notice the attention given to the contrast in v.5 and v.6: Behold, I am sinful from conception. Behold, God delights in what is good.

**III. DESIRE FOR FORGIVENESS & RESTORATION v.7-12**

- A. Cleansing v.7
- B. Restored Joy v.8 (Psalm 38:1-8)
- C. True Forgiveness v.9
- D. Renewal v.10
- E. Restoration v.11-12

**IV. RENEWED WORSHIP v.13-19**

- A. Testimony v.13
- B. Worship v.14-15
- C. Sacrifice v.16-17
- D. Corporate Joy v.18-19

**V. APPLICATION**

How can we bring this home and make personal application from David's genuine example of repentance?

- A. **The necessary order of genuine repentance**
- B. **David's story is my story**
  - 1. Remember the superscription: To the choirmaster.
  - 2. I haven't committed adultery or murdered anyone. Matthew 5: 21-22, 27-28.
  - 3. We are all sinners by nature, and we all commit sins which separate us from the presence of God.
- C. **Salvation is from God alone, through Christ alone**