**The Guilt of Sin**

*Psalm 51:1-6*  
  
**Introduction**

1. When sin is present there should be guilt. (**cf. Psalm 51:1-6, 14).**
   1. **David, after being convicted of his sin with Bathsheba, and the murder of her husband Uriah, acknowledged his guilt.**
      1. **(v. 3b) – sin always before him, i.e. always on his mind.**
      2. **The guilt of sin weighed on him, as it should.**
   2. He did not hide it, or deny it, but accepted that he had done wrong.
2. We each bear the guilt of our own sin (**cf. Romans 3:23; Ezekiel 18:20**).
3. Some allow their guilt to swallow them up, instead of doing something about it
   1. **Satan wants us, in our guilt, to think we are beyond repair. He doesn’t want us to react as David (*Turn to God for forgiveness.*).**
   2. This is a mistake Judas made after betraying Jesus (**cf. Matthew 27:1-5** – Judas hanged himself.).
4. Acknowledging one's guilt of sin is essential for redemption.
   1. Some do not like the concept of making people feel guilty for their sin.
   2. This concept of guilt is necessary, and is there for a reason.
5. Sin’s guilt alerts us of danger when sin is committed. ***(“The soul who sins shall die” Ezekiel 18:20*** – serious thing.)
6. This only occurs to those trained by the truth.
   1. When we know the truth, and fail to do as it says, we are filled with guilt.
   2. **1 Timothy 4:1-2** – the learned conscience produces guilt when sin is committed.
      1. **Some do not turn from their sin when guilt comes, but continue in it, searing their conscience.**
      2. Paul said the Gentiles were, ***“past feeling, [and] have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness” (Ephesians 4:19)***.
   3. **Suppressing the reality of sin only hardens the heart and prevents surrender and redemption.**
      1. **Romans 1:32** – They know the judgment of God. They know these things are wrong, but do them anyway.
      2. **God shows us we are wrong. The guilt should turn us toward God, not away from Him.**
7. Sin’s guilt convicts!
   1. **John 16:8** – This is how the HS works through the Gospel
   2. **When the apostles were given the HS and began preaching on the day of Pentecost** – **Acts 2:22-24, 36-37**
      1. One of the aspects of the great commission (implicitly) was to convict the world of sin.
      2. This is a necessary step to salvation – you must realize your guilt!
      3. **These men were alerted of danger by their guilt. WHAT MUST WE DO!**
8. Sin’s guilt can be removed by conversion! (**Acts 3:19** – Peter to the Jews on Solomon’s Porch, they crucified Christ. – **v. 13-15** – **after crowd gathered when lame man healed**.) Times of refreshing 🡪 *Upon conversion there is a refreshing release of guilt*.
9. Times of Refreshing (**Isaiah 35:3-7, 9-10** – The times of glory and refreshing in Zion – the church.)
   1. **Sin brings forth guilt, but God provides refreshment from that guilt. 🡪**
   2. **Psalm 51:3-4** *(guilt*); **7-9** (*forgiveness in turning to God*); **10-13** (*recovery and refreshment in forgiveness*)
10. Christians are those whose guilt subsides through forgiveness, **Acts 2:38-41**.
    1. In order to have the sin of guilt taken away you must do as God says.
    2. Some have the guilt of sin, but aren’t willing to obey. **However, it is necessary!**
11. When we fall short, guilt comes again.
    1. Simon the sorcerer – **Acts 8:18-24**
    2. We must allow that guilt to push us to repentance, and asking forgiveness.
    3. ***“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted” (2 Corinthians 7:10*** – we must understand the necessity of guilt, and act accordingly – repent and ask forgiveness).

**Conclusion**

1. The answer to sin's guilt is a plea for divine forgiveness (**Psalm 32:1-5** – guilt weighs on us. It is heavy. We must ask forgiveness for it to go away.).
2. We should not allow guilt to overwhelm us to the destruction of our souls. Guilt should drive us to repentance, and continued obedience.