

**Title: “Doctrine or Experience?”**

**Date: 7/12/20**

**Series: Psalms**

**Text: Psalm 32**

**Blurb: “David speaks about forgiveness, both as a doctrine and a personal experience. We need to hear both!”**

### Outline

Psalm 32, penned by David, is about God’s forgiveness. But does David speak about it as a **doctrine** (teaching) or an **experience**?

- Both.

*Doctrine without experience is dead. Experience without doctrine is helpless.*

### **(1) Doctrine of Forgiveness (32:1-2)**

The Apostle Paul quotes 32:1-2 in one of his most important (doctrinal) passages on forgiveness (Romans 4:1-8).

*Forgiveness is a key part of our Doctrine of Salvation (soteriology), which also includes justification, sanctification, glorification, regeneration, election, atonement, bodily resurrection, and more.*

What is our doctrine of forgiveness from Psalm 32:1-2 alone?

- God: His forgiveness is **real!** And a source of blessedness as it covers our sin (32:1-2a)
- Man: To receive forgiveness, honesty/confession is required (“in whose spirit there is no deceit,” 32:2b)

### **(2) Experience of Forgiveness: Four Phases (32:3-11)**

Groaning (32:3-4)

- The physical and emotional consequences of sin

Confessing (32:5)

- Wait, that was quick...no hoops to jump through?

Praising (32:6-7)

- “You” (God) said five times here

Teaching (32:8-11)

- How to be an animal: respond only to physical force (32:9)

### Questions for reflection and application

1. Many people don’t experience the “groaning” phase as a consequence of their sin (32:3-4).
  - a. Why do you think this is?
  - b. Have you experienced what David is talking about here? Or how is it different for you?

2. David says confidently in verse 5 that God forgave his sin. How can we be sure of this as well?
3. What do you need to confess? Spend a minute in silent prayer, asking God to show you any sins you've been hiding. Be honest with Him and yourself, and know that He wants to bless you with forgiveness. Confess.