

A Study of the Book of Psalms – Week 9

Psalm 51

1. Psalm 51 is one of ___ penitential psalms that is appropriately assigned the lectionary for Ash Wednesday.
2. Psalm 51 is one of thirteen psalms that cite a specific _____ in the life of David (see also Pss. 3, 7, 18, 34, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 63, and 142).
3. The narrative context for Psalm 51 (i.e., 2 Samuel 11-12) and David's words and testimony accentuates the _____ of divine grace.

Verses 1 – 6

4. The vocabulary of divine _____ (i.e., mercy, steadfast love and abundant mercy) dominates verse 1 even before the word _____ is introduced.
5. The vocabulary of divine grace in Psalm 51 resonates the same language that we find in _____.
6. The pervasiveness of the psalmist's sin is highlighted by the words transgression, sin, iniquity and _____.
7. Verse 5 has been a focal point in the church's formulation of the doctrine of _____ sin.
8. Verse 6 eloquently affirms that the final word is not sin but _____ that derives from attentiveness to God's ways and radical dependence upon God.

Verses 7-12

9. An interesting change in the order of the psalmist's requests between verses 1b-2 and 7-9 suggests a _____ in the psalmist's experience.
10. The reversal or _____ that takes place in the psalmist is best represented by the phrase "create in me a clean heart, O God."

11. The mention of God's _____ Spirit is unusual and occurs in only one other place in the entire Old Testament (Isaiah 63:10-11).
12. The phrase "joy of your salvation" is better understood when we realize that in the Old Testament, "salvation" is the _____ of conditions that makes possible the life God intends.
13. The appropriate response by the psalmist to being restored by God to new life is found in the phrase "willing spirit," which probably refers to _____.

Verses 13-17

14. The psalmist's generosity is found in the act of _____ others through a ministry of _____.
15. The psalmist's gratitude is expressed well by the psalmist's _____ and declaration of God's praise.
16. In addition to generosity and gratitude, a genuine experience of God's grace also yields _____ or a "broken and contrite heart."

Verse 18-19

17. The effect of verses 18-19 is to provide a _____ conclusion to a prayer that has been voiced exclusively in the first person.
18. Psalm 51 suggests that corporate worship is _____ and _____ when it involves gratitude to God, humility before God, and generosity to others in God's name.

In preparation for next week read Psalm 63

