

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

PSALMS-LESSON 28

WEEK OF APRIL 19–APRIL 24

PAULINE PSALM OF FORGIVENESS

PSALM 130

“Martin Luther loved **Psalm 130**. He called it one of the Pauline Psalms (with **Psalms 32, 51, 143**) because of its offer of forgiveness by grace apart from human works. In fact, it is one of the best expositions in the Old Testament of the way of salvation by grace on the basis of Christ’s atonement.”

Psalms, Vol. 3, James Montgomery Boice, pg. 1138

Psalm 130 is one of the 15 Songs of Ascents sung by the Jewish pilgrims making the ascent from the lowlands to the City of Jerusalem to participate in festivals held at the tabernacle on Mt. Zion. This Psalm is a literal spiritual song of ascents where the psalmist in **verse 1** expresses that he is overwhelmed and drowning, overcome by his own sin, guilt and shame. From his pit of despair, the psalmist cries out to God for mercy. God delivers him from the abyss of sorrow over sin and places him in the heights of joy and confident hope as the psalmist trusts in God for mercy and forgiveness.

Have you trusted in Christ to forgive your sin and cleanse you completely from the penalty of sin, death? For the redeemed, do you confidently confess your sin and trust in God’s forgiveness in each and every moment throughout the day?

Read Psalm 130:1-2 Urgent Plea

1. How does the psalmist describe his precarious condition in **verse 1**?
2. How do these verses help to understand the “*depths*”?
 - **Psalm 69:1-2**
 - **Psalm 69:14-15**
 - **Lamentations 3:55**
3. In **verses 1 and 2** what words does the psalmist use to describe his desperate dependence upon the Lord to deliver him?

Read Psalm 130:3-4 Confident Deliverance

4. How do **verses 3 and 4** help to understand what was troubling the psalmist in **verses 1 and 2**?
5. What is the answer to the Psalmist’s question in **verse 3**? How does Paul answer that question in **Romans 3:10-12** and **Romans 3:23**?
6. In contrast to the human condition of all mankind expressed in verse 3, what great truth is introduced with “*But*” in **verse 4**?

7. In **verse 4**, what is the response to undeserved forgiveness?

8. Read **Psalms 103:8-13**. How is fear related to God's forgiveness in that passage?

"The true and inevitable effects of forgiveness are love and worship and service. By these effects you can measure whether you have actually confessed your sin, believed on God, and been forgiven or are merely presuming on forgiveness without any genuine repentance or faith. Those who have been forgiven are softened and humbled and overwhelmed by God's mercy, and they determine never to sin against such a great and fearful goodness. They do sin, but in their deepest hearts they do not want to, and when they do they hurry back to God for deliverance." [Psalms Vol.3](#), James Montgomery Boice, page 1142.

Read Psalm 130:5-6 Confident Expectation

9. Now, trusting in Yahweh's mercy and forgiveness, what does the psalmist express in **verse 5**? What is the source of his hope as the psalmist depends on Yahweh's provision?

10. The Hebrew word translated "*wail*" carries the idea of an eager expectation, like one actively depending on God. How does the psalmist paint that picture in **verse 6**?

Read Psalm 130:7-8 Testimony of God's Merciful Provision of Forgiveness

11. In **verses 1-6** the psalmist is focused on his ascent from the mire of sin to the joy of receiving mercy and forgiveness. Now he turns outward to testify to others of God's provision. What does he communicate in **verse 7**?

12. What is the future promise and hope for the nation of Israel and His redeemed in **verse 8**?

13. What truths from **Psalms 130** spark great joy and worship as you meditate upon those truths?

14. As a sinner redeemed by God's grace and recipient of His forgiveness, who is it that you are urging to turn to Yahweh by faith to receive His mercy and forgiveness?

"With the Lord there is forgiveness of sin! Full forgiveness! Believers, therefore, can have the same hope and confidence in the Lord that someday there will be no more confession of sin necessary, and no more need to pray for deliverance (**John 16:23**). But in the meantime every prayer and every confession should hasten the hope. And that hope, that waiting for the final redemption with the return of Christ, should likewise lead us to be seeking forgiveness for our sin." [The Psalms, Vol 3](#), Allen P. Ross, pg 718.