



THE EXHORTER

“And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.” Acts 2:40

The Palmer Road church of Christ, Westland, Mi.

January 16, 2011

JUMP START #32

Psa. 32:1-*“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!”*

One of the features of the Psalms is the close relationship between man and God. Here in this passage, two actions have taken place. First, a transgression has been committed. Someone has sinned against God. This act damages the relationship one has with God. But then we read of a second action taking place. This is the activity of God. Forgiveness has been offered. The relationship has been restored and renewed. This man is blessed. Without his forgiveness his relationship with God would be severed and he would face eternity alone and without God. What a blessing forgiveness is. A person can't feel it, but he knows it by faith. God promises this for those who walk with him.

Paul quoted this passage in Romans 4 and used it to discuss what Christ has done through his death upon the cross.

There are two inherent “whys” that we ask. First, why do we transgress? All kinds of thoughts can be presented from the influence of Satan, to the crowds we hang out with, to the very nature of temptation, to being weak in the faith, to the nature of man. If given a choice, we tend to choose the wrong. Our choices are often superficial, vain and for the moment. We generally do not think of consequences, eternity and the affect our choice has upon others.

The second “why” is even more perplexing. Why does God forgive us? He certainly doesn't have to. It would not be unfair nor out of line for God to say, “too bad, you're on your own.” But he doesn't. He never gives up on us. He loves us to the very end. He is forgiving, gracious, and generous. The only answer to the “why” is that he loves us. It is not because we are so cute and adorable, remember we are the transgressors. We are the sinners. God loves us because that's the way he is. God is love.

We are a blessed people. We have been blessed with forgiveness, the greatest gift anyone could give us. Sometimes we forget that we are blessed. As the prodigal was given sandals, a ring, and a robe, so have we.

It would be wonderful if we incorporated the word “blessed” more in our vocabulary. When someone asks, “How are you?” Instead of replying “fine,” say “Blessed.” That will not only catch their attention, but will remind you of that wonderful gift God has given you, forgiveness.

I am Blessed!

Roger Shouse

Some further thoughts along this line:

Monday- Psa. 3:8

Tuesday – Psa. 24:1-5

Wednesday- Psa.29:11

Thursday- Psa.33:12

Friday- Psa.34:8

Saturday- Psa.115:13