

SIN IS OUTTA HERE

I. Isaiah 38:15-17 + Various Scriptures

A. From the moment Adam & Eve ate the forbidden fruit from the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil, sin entered our world. Sin is rebellion against God. Sin is cosmic treason against the Creator and Maker of all things seen and unseen. To borrow a term from archery, sin is missing the mark or falling short. (Rom 3:23) A *transgression* is an act of sin, a rebellious action. Iniquity is internal and premeditated; it's heart-dwelling rebellion with malicious intent. As mentioned last Sunday, sin is both disease and crime. Isaiah 53:5 says: "*But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.*"

B. As sinful creatures, even our attempts to be righteous on our own represent sinful behavior. Isaiah said his righteousness was as filthy rags. Many churches in our day preach moralism verses the Gospel and moralism cannot save us. Jesus died to save the unrighteous and the self-righteous--thieves on crosses, prostitutes and tax collectors, adulterers and murderers, liars and cheaters, Sadducees and Pharisees and everything in between. Jesus came to die for sins.

C. How effective and final does the the cross of Christ deal with sin? How fully does Jesus save us from it? Our salvation is a threefold: It is initial, progressive, and final. We come to Christ and we are saved, we are being saved, and one day we'll be fully saved. The Scriptural terms are: Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification. Put another way: As Christians we are saved from the penalty of sin; being saved from the power of sin; and one day we will be freed from the presence of sin altogether.

D. Today we'll briefly run through some Scriptures that show how the blood of Jesus, His sacrifice of atonement, His death and resurrection, have dealt with our sin. These will be highlight worthy verses. We need such verses planted in our minds because we deal with indwelling sin every day. We are constantly tempted and accused. We are tempted to re-embrace the thoughts and actions that put Christ on the cross in the first place while being led by the Spirit to bear the fruit of obedience, having His law written on the tablets of our hearts.

II. So what does the Word of God tell us about our sin being dispensed with?

A. Through the cross of Christ, the sacrifice of Jesus, our sins have been put out of God's sight. King Hezekiah had a terminal illness but God healed him, giving him 15 extra years in which to serve Him. Isaiah 38:15-17 (ESV) is part of Hezekiah's prayer: "*What shall I say? For He has spoken to me, and He Himself has done it. I walk slowly all my years because of the bitterness of my soul. O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these is the life of my spirit. Oh restore me to health and make me live! Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love You have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for You have cast all my sins behind Your back. (Hezekiah did what was right in God's eyes. He looked forward to what Messiah would accomplish. God, through His Son, put the king's sins behind His back, put them out of sight. God likewise does that for us.)*

B-1. Through the cross of Christ, the sacrifice of Jesus, our sins have been put out of reach. Psalm 103:8-19 (ESV) is a powerful Psalm of David. David was known as a man after God's own heart: "*The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all.*" (Our sins--put out of reach by the blood of the Lamb!)

B-2 Micah also talks about our sins being put out of reach. Micah 7:18-19 (ESV) "*Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*" (Out of reach!)

C. Through the cross of Christ, the sacrifice of Jesus, our sins have been put out of mind. Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, suffered greatly for proclaiming the truth of God's Word to the people of Judah who would be exiled into Babylon. Yet he prophesied about the New Covenant. Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV) "*Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,'*

for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Before He died, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." But Jesus knew exactly what He was doing and accomplishing! And how does an Omniscient (all knowing) God put our sin out of His mind? A loving and just God can do whatever He wants for nothing is impossible for Him!)

D-1 Through the cross of Christ, the sacrifice of Jesus, our sins have been put out of existence. Isaiah 43:25 (ESV) "I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins." Isaiah 44:21-23 (ESV) Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; (You too Wild Olive Branch!) I formed you; you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me. I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed you. Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel."

D-2 After healing the crippled man at the temple, Peter preached to the astonished crowd. Acts 3:14-19 (ESV) "But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out." (NIV sins wiped out!). (And who can our sins put out of existence. There is only One who can!)

E. Through the cross of Christ, the sacrifice of Jesus, our sins have been put out of sight, out of reach, out of mind, and out of existence. Yet why do I struggle with indwelling sin? Why do I, like Paul, find myself doing the very thing I do not want to do? Because we have been saved by sin's penalty but not yet from sin's presence. The redemptive process we are in as believers means that we wrestle with sin. But hopefully sin's grasp of us is ever diminishing. The axis of evil is the world, the devil, and our very own flesh (sinful natures). Is there hope for me in this daily battle?

F. When David sinned against God with Bathsheba, arranging for her husband to be murdered, then covering up his sins through deceitfulness, God sent the prophet Nathan to confront him. David broke and repented of his sin. Psalm 51:1-12 (ESV) is a prayer of repentance penned by David. But it can be our cry of repentance as well: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that you may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit." (All this was accomplished for David by Jesus and Jesus has done the same for you and me!)

*** Close with the story, "The Cleansing Blood" and with Prayer...**

*** Psalm 32:1-5 (ESV) is our Benediction: "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah"**

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Isaiah 38:15-17 (ESV)

15 What shall I say? For He has spoken to me, and He Himself has done it. I walk slowly all my years because of the bitterness of my soul. **16** O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these is the life of my spirit. Oh restore me to health and make me live! **17** Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love You have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

Psalm 103:8-19 (ESV)

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **9** He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. **10** He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. **11** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; **12** as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. **13** As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. **14** For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. **15** As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; **16** for the

wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. **17** But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, **18** to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. **19** The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all.

Micah 7:18-19 (ESV)

18 Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love. **19** He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV)

31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, **32** not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. **33** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **34** And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Isaiah 43:25 (ESV)

25 "I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Isaiah 44:21-23 (ESV)

21 Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; I formed you; you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me. **22** I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed you. **23** Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel.

Acts 3:14-19 (ESV)

14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, **15** and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. **16** And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. **17** "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. **18** But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. **19** Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out..."

Psalms 51:1-12 (ESV)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. **2** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! **3** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. **4** Against You, O Lord, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that you may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment. **5** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. **6** Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart. **7** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **8** Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice. **9** Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. **10** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. **11** Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. **12** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psalms 32:1-5 (ESV)

1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. **2** Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. **3** For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah* **5** I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

The Cleansing Blood

Author Unknown

One night in a church service a young woman felt the tug of God at her heart. She responded to God's call and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. The young woman had a very rough past, involving alcohol, drugs, and

prostitution. But, the change in her was evident. As time went on, she became a faithful member of the church. She eventually became involved in the ministry, teaching young children.

It was not very long until this faithful young woman had caught the eye and heart of the pastor's son. The relationship grew and they began to make wedding plans. This is when the problems began. You see, about one half of the church did not think that a woman with a past such as hers was suitable for a pastor's son. The church began to argue and fight about the matter. So they decided to have a meeting.

As the people made their arguments and tensions increased, the meeting was getting completely out of hand. The young woman became very upset about all the things being brought up about her past. As she began to cry, the pastor's son stood to speak. He could not bear the pain it was causing his wife-to-be. He began to speak and his statement was this: "My fiancée's past is not what is on trial here. What you are questioning is the ability of the blood of Jesus to wash away sin. Today you have put the blood of Jesus on trial. So, does it wash away sin or not?" The whole church began to weep as they realized that they had been slandering the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Too often, even as Christians, we bring up the past and use it as a weapon against our brothers and sisters. Forgiveness is a very foundational part of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. If the blood of Jesus does not cleanse the other person completely, then it cannot cleanse us completely. If that is the case, then we are all in a lot of trouble. What can wash away my sins?... Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

[Film Clips & Other Links](#)

A Dozen Things God Did With Our Sin - Article by Sam Storms
<http://samstorms.com/enjoying-god-blog/post/a-dozen-things-god-did-with-our-sin>

Iniquities and Transgressions - Brad Reed, Dream Center NYC
<https://vimeo.com/103291623>

Will God Forgive Me of My Repetitive Sins? - Tim Keller
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNM3fR0-IW8>

Can God Forgive Me After All I've Done? - Larry Crabb
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRGmDoXsZQo&spfreload=1>

Forgive Like God Forgave You - John Piper
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjNlZ EJ1u6A>

"Who is a God Like You?" (Micah 7:18-19) - Song by Esther Mui
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FeXkGkFNxY>

"East to West" - Casting Crowns
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyoVJfADlwo>

Dating A Non-Christian - Tim Keller
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r18U4G4Tp3M>

[Bonus Stuff](#)

[Psalm 130:1-4 \(ESV\)](#)

1 Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord! **2** O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! **3** If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? **4** But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

[1 John 1:8-9 \(ESV\)](#)

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Acts 13:38-39 \(NKJV\)](#)

38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; **39** and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Hebrews 8:1-13 (NKJV)

1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, **2** a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. **3** For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. **4** For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; **5** who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." **6** But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. **7** For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. **8** Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— **9** not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. **10** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **11** None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. **12** For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." **13** In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 10:5-18 (NKJV)

5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. **6** In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. **7** Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.'" **8** Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), **9** then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. **10** By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. **11** And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **12** But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, **13** from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. **14** For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. **15** But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, **16** "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," **17** then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." **18** Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

Quote by A.W. Pink

"After grief for sin there should be joy for forgiveness."

Quote by Dave Hunt

"Our love for God and our appreciation of His love and forgiveness will be in proportion to the recognition of our sin and unworthiness."

Quote by Erwin Lutzer

"Forgiveness is always free. But that doesn't mean that confession is always easy. Sometimes it is hard. Incredibly hard. It is painful to admit our sins and entrust ourselves to God's care."

Quote by C.S. Lewis

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

Quote by Augustine

"That your enemies have been created is God's doing; that they hate you and wish to ruin you is their own doing. What should you say about them in your mind? 'Lord be merciful to them, forgive them their sins, put the fear of God in them, change them!' You are loving in them not what they are, but what you would have them to become."

Nothing But The Blood

By Robert Lowry, 1876

1. What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain:

O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

2. For my pardon this I see:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. (Refrain)

3. Nothing can for sin atone:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. (Refrain)

4. This is all my hope and peace:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. (Refrain)

Iniquity, Sin, & Transgression

S. Michael Houdmann

<http://www.gotquestions.org/iniquity-sin-transgression.html>

Question: "What is the difference between iniquity, sin, and transgression?"

Answer: In [Psalm 32:5](#), the psalmist says, "I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.'" In this one verse, "sin," "iniquity," and "transgression" are all mentioned. Basically, the three words communicate the same idea: evil and lawlessness, as defined by God (see [1 John 3:4](#)). However, upon closer examination, each word also carries a slightly different meaning.

The word *sin* and its cognates are used 786 times in the New International Version of the Bible. *Sin* means "to miss the mark." It can refer to doing something against God or against a person ([Exodus 10:16](#)), doing the opposite of what is right ([Galatians 5:17](#)), doing something that will have negative results ([Proverbs 24:33-34](#)), and failing to do something you know is right ([James 4:17](#)). In the Old Testament, God even instituted sacrifices for unintentional sins ([Numbers 15:27](#)). *Sin* is the general term for anything that "falls short of the glory of God" ([Romans 3:23](#)).

Sin leads to a downward progression that, without the restoring power of the Holy Spirit, we all tend toward. The *sin nature* is present in every human being born since the Fall of Adam ([Genesis 3:6-7](#); [Romans 5:12](#)). If left unchecked, continual sin leads to a "reprobate mind," spoken of in [Romans 1:24](#). Our sin nature causes us to gravitate naturally toward selfishness, envy, and pride, even when we are trying to do good. The apostle Paul alluded to his propensity to sin when he wrote, "For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." ([Romans 7:18](#)).

The sin nature leads to trespassing. A trespasser is someone who crosses a line or climbs a fence that he should not cross or climb. A trespass may be intentional or unintentional. *Trespass* can also mean "to fall away after being close beside." Peter trespassed when he denied Jesus ([Luke 22:34, 56-62](#)). We all "cross the line" in thought, word, or attitude many times a day and should be quick to forgive others who do the same ([Matthew 6:15](#)).

Transgression refers to presumptuous sin. It means "to choose to intentionally disobey; willful trespassing." Samson intentionally broke his [Nazirite vow](#) by touching a dead lion ([Numbers 6:1-5](#); [Judges 14:8-9](#)) and allowing his hair to be cut ([Judges 16:17](#)); in doing so he was committing a transgression. David was referring to this kind of sin when he wrote, "Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered" ([Psalm 32:1](#)). When we knowingly run a stop sign, tell a lie, or blatantly disregard an authority, we are transgressing.

Iniquity is more deeply rooted. *Iniquity* means "premeditated choice, continuing without repentance." David's sin with Bathsheba that led to the killing of her husband, Uriah, was iniquity ([2 Samuel 11:3-4](#); [2 Samuel 12:9](#)). [Micah 2:1](#) says, "Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds! At morning's light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it." In David's psalm of repentance, he cries out to God, saying, "Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin" ([Psalm 51:2](#)).

God forgives iniquity, as He does any type of sin when we repent ([Jeremiah 33:8](#); [Hebrews 8:12](#)). However, iniquity left unchecked leads to a state of willful sin with no fear of God. The build-up of unrepentant sin is sometimes pictured as a "cup of iniquity" being filled to the brim ([Revelation 17:4](#); [Genesis 15:16](#)). This often applies to nations who have forsaken God

completely. Continued iniquity leads to unnatural affections, which leads to a reprobate mind. [Romans 1:28–32](#) outlines this digression in vivid detail. The sons of Eli are biblical examples of reprobates whom God judged for their iniquities ([1 Samuel 3:13–14](#)). Rather than repent, Eli's sons continued in their abominations until repentance was no longer possible.

The biblical writers used different words to refer to sin in its many forms. However, regardless of how depraved a human heart may become, Jesus' death on the cross was sufficient to cover all sin ([John 1:29](#); [Romans 5:18](#)). [Psalm 32:5](#), quoted at the beginning of this article, ends with these words: "And you forgave the guilt of my sin." The only sin that God cannot forgive is the final rejection of the Holy Spirit's drawing to repentance—the ultimate fruit of a reprobate mind ([Matthew 12:32](#); [Luke 12:10](#)).

- While he is not the author of every article on [GotQuestions.org](#), for citation purposes, you may reference our CEO, S. Michael Houdmann.