

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 31.08.25

PREACHER: PS ANDY MACCALLUM

The Depths of Sin and the Depths of Grace

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple:

A disciple lives with honesty before God, allowing the Spirit to reveal and heal what is hidden, that we might walk in freedom, blessing, and integrity.

OVERVIEW

We long for freedom, peace, and spiritual vitality, but too often settle for surface-level faith. Psalm 32 offers us a better way: a life of honest confession, Spirit-led awareness, and deep grace. Jesus invites us to stop hiding and start healing – to expose our sin to the cross and experience the joy of forgiveness, the covering of Christ, and the weight of guilt lifted from our shoulders.

ACTION

Step 1: What's one area of your life that might need to move from hidden into the light? What holds you back from confessing it?

Step 2: Can you remember a time when you experienced the blessing of being fully honest before God? How did grace meet you there?

Step 3: What does "being the church" look like when it comes to grace, truth, and honesty in community?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 32:1–5

Sometimes we work so hard to keep the surface looking good that we ignore what's slowly rotting underneath. We polish the exterior, say the right words, and keep everything presentable. But below the surface, there's a buildup—unspoken guilt, unhealed wounds, hidden compromises. And eventually, oftentimes through a moment of crisis, it comes into the light.

But Psalm 32 offers us another way. It's a song of freedom, but not the kind that comes from trying harder or pretending to have it together. It's a freedom that flows from honesty. David speaks not just of surface-level sin, but the whole spectrum of what we try to hide: transgression (our rebellion), sin (our falling short), and iniquity (the twisted and intentional choices we make). And then, he speaks of what God does with all of it: He forgives. He covers our debt. He no longer counts it against us.

But this blessing doesn't come automatically. It's available for the one "in whose spirit is no deceit." That means it comes to those who stop pretending. Those who don't deflect or defend. Those who are willing to admit, "That was me. I missed the mark. I'm tired of hiding."

The deepest grace in our life is found when we allow the Spirit to go to the deepest places in our story. If we stay at a surface level with God and ourselves, we receive surface-level grace. But when we open the full vault of our heart—even the parts we've locked down for years—we discover that Jesus meets us not with condemnation, but with cleansing.

But this is more than just another self-help strategy. The cross does what we can never do on our own. Through the work of the cross, Jesus lifts the weight. He silences our shame. He covers what we were desperate to hide – but he doesn't cover it with denial – he covers it with his love. And then he credits us with righteousness. Then, he doesn't just give us a clean slate, but he gives us a new name – a brand new identity.

This is the kind of life we're invited into: a life where we don't have to fake it anymore. A life that moves forward in joy. A life that walks lightly, because we've laid our burdens down at the feet of mercy and had them taken away, for good.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

- 1) Why do you think it's so easy to settle for surface-level spirituality?
- 2) In what ways does our culture encourage hiding rather than confessing? How does the gospel speak into that?
- 3) How might your connect group become a safe space for confession, grace, and growth?

PRAYER

Father,
we come honestly. No more pretending, no more hiding. We expose our sin to Your cross—not to be shamed, but to be set free. Help us live as people in whose spirit there is no deceit. Make us a community where grace runs deep and healing flows freely.
Amen.