



Have
Mercy
on me,
O God

– Psalm 51:1-4 –



Create
in Me
a Pure
Heart

**A Six Week Series Leading
Up To Easter at Mercy Hill**



King David

Reigned as King in Israel
c.1000-961BC

“The Lord has sought
out a man after
his own heart....”

— 1 Samuel 13:14 —



“You are the man!”

— 2 Samuel 12:7 —

— “ ” —

**I HAVE SINNED
AGAINST THE LORD.**

King David to Nathan the Prophet

— 2 Samuel 12:13 —



Psalm 51

An open scroll of parchment with Hebrew text, flanked by two wooden rollers. The scroll is unrolled in the center, showing two columns of text. The rollers are made of light-colored wood and have decorative patterns on their ends. The background is dark, making the scroll and rollers stand out.

**Psalm 51 is both the saddest &
most joyful of all the Psalms.**

— Paul David Tripp —

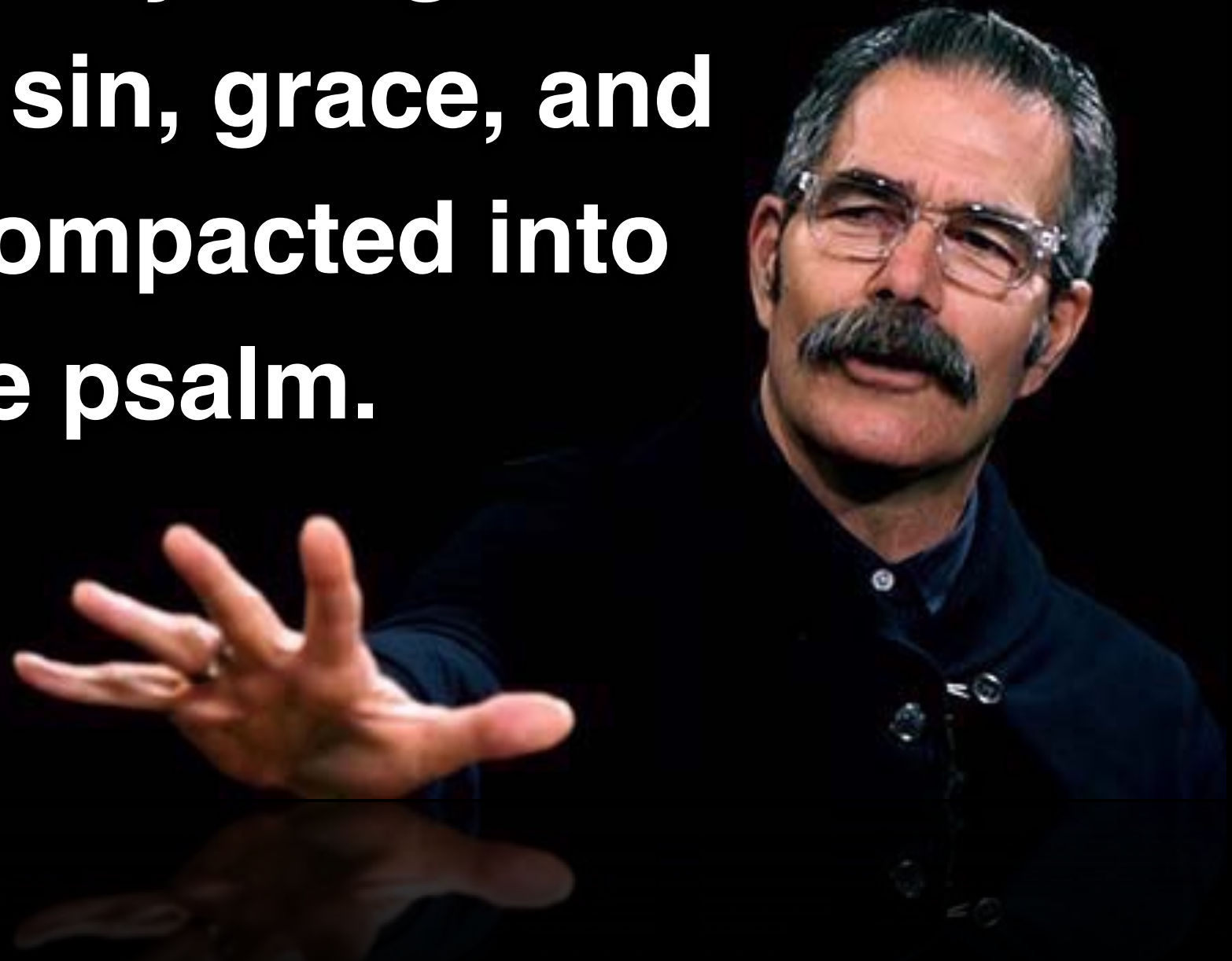
David's story is our story, so Psalm 51 is our psalm as well. This psalm of moral failure, personal awareness, grief, confession, repentance, commitment, and hope wraps its arms around the experience of each one of us. These are the themes of our lives.



But the dominant theme of Psalm 51 is not sin, [but] grace.... Psalm 51 is about how God meets us in our deepest failure and transforms us by his grace....

All the themes of sin, grace, and redemption are compacted into this powerful little psalm.

Paul David Tripp
Whiter Than Snow





Have
Mercy
on me,
O God

– Psalm 51:1-4 –

Psalm 51

26 To the choirmaster. A psalm of David, when Nathan the Prophet went to him, after he had gone into Bathsheba.

Psalm 51

- 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.**

Psalm 51

- 3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**
- 4 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.**

Let's note...

- 1 The knowledge of sin**
- 2 The vocabulary of sin**
- 3 The defiance of sin**
- 4 The possession of sin**

Psalm 51

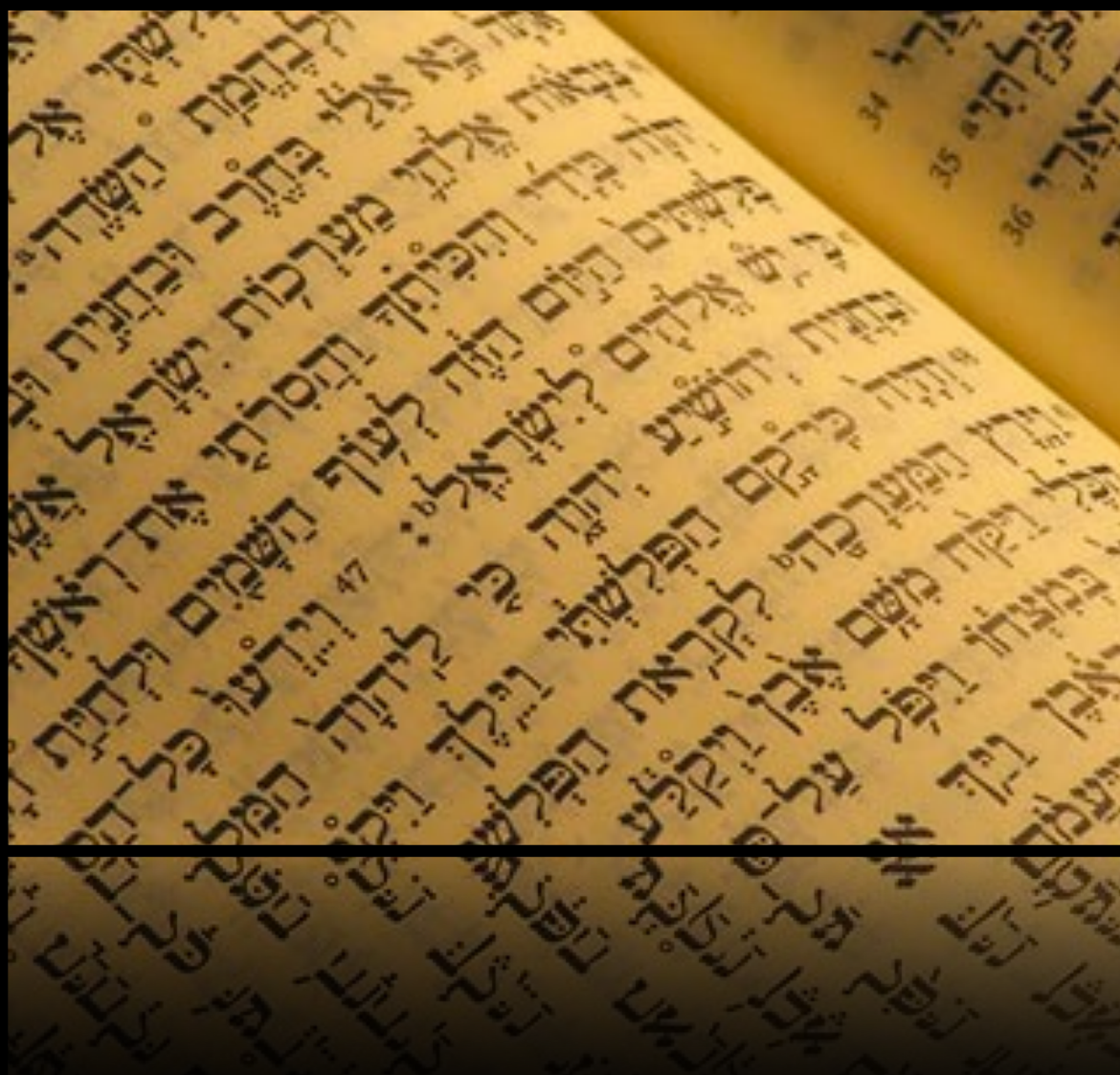
**3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

Psalm 51

**3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

**NLT: For I recognize my rebellion;
it haunts me day and night.**

TM: ...my sins are staring me down.



— Psalm 32 —

**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.**

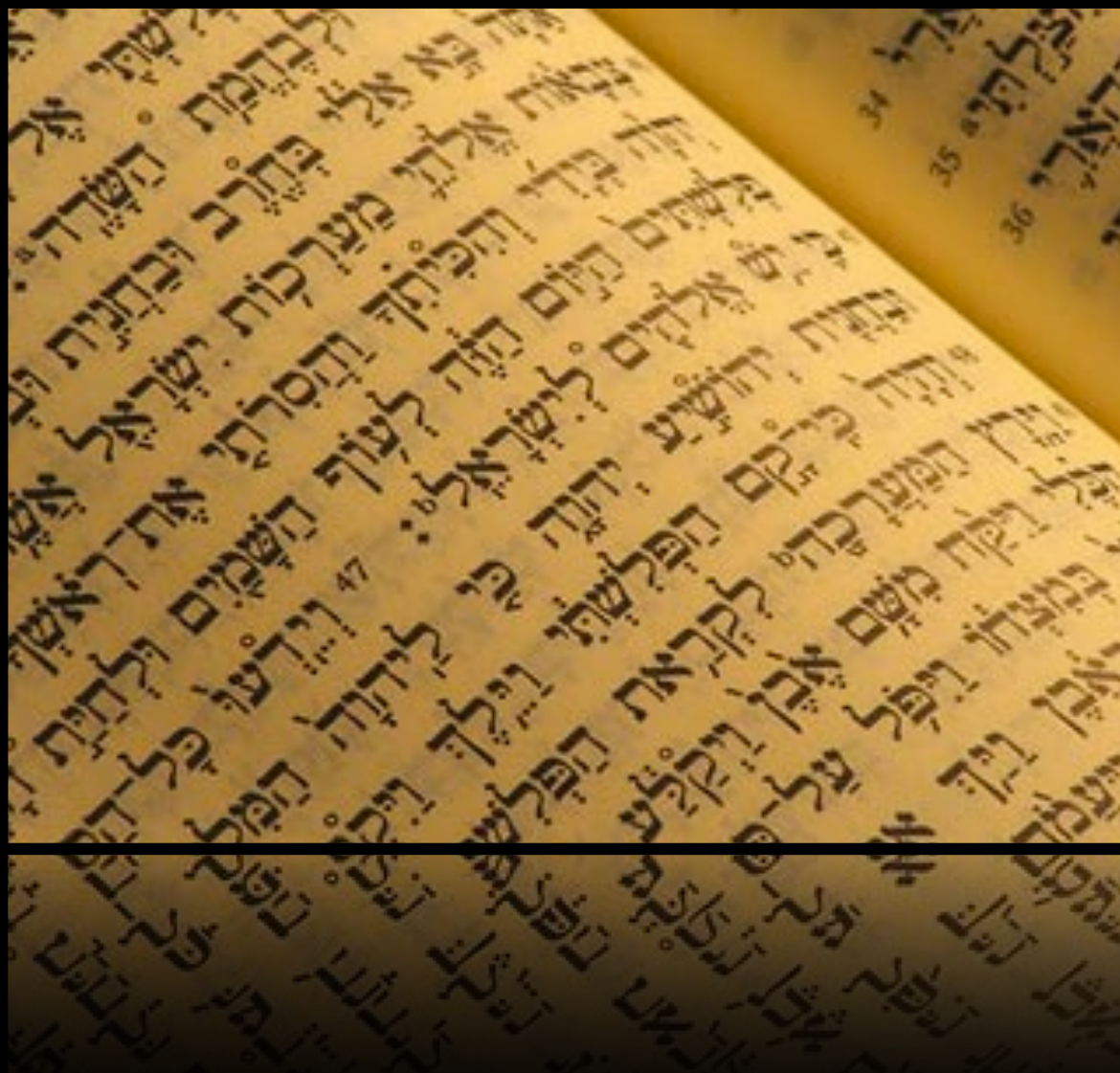
**“...when he came
to himself....”**

— Jesus in the Gospel of Luke 15:17 —



**“...they may come to their senses
and escape the snare of the devil....”**

— The Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 2:26 —



**I acknowledged
my sin to you, and
I did not cover
my iniquity; I said,
“I will confess my
transgressions
to the Lord....”**

— Psalm 32 —



**The knowledge
& conviction
of sin is
actually a
good thing.**

**Where there is
no sight of sin,
there can be
no repentance.**

— Thomas Watson —



Let's note...

- 1 The knowledge of sin
- 2 The vocabulary of sin
- 3 The defiance of sin
- 4 The possession of sin

Psalm 51

- 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**.**

“TRANSGRESSION”



“crossing the line”

“INIQUITY”



“corrupt, twisted, crooked”



A bad strain has gotten into the stock so that we now sin with the ease and readiness of people born to the task.

Cornelius Plantinga

Not The Way It's Supposed To Be

**The seeds of
every known
sin lay dormant
in our hearts.**

Robert Murray McCheyne
Minister, Church of Scotland
1813-1843

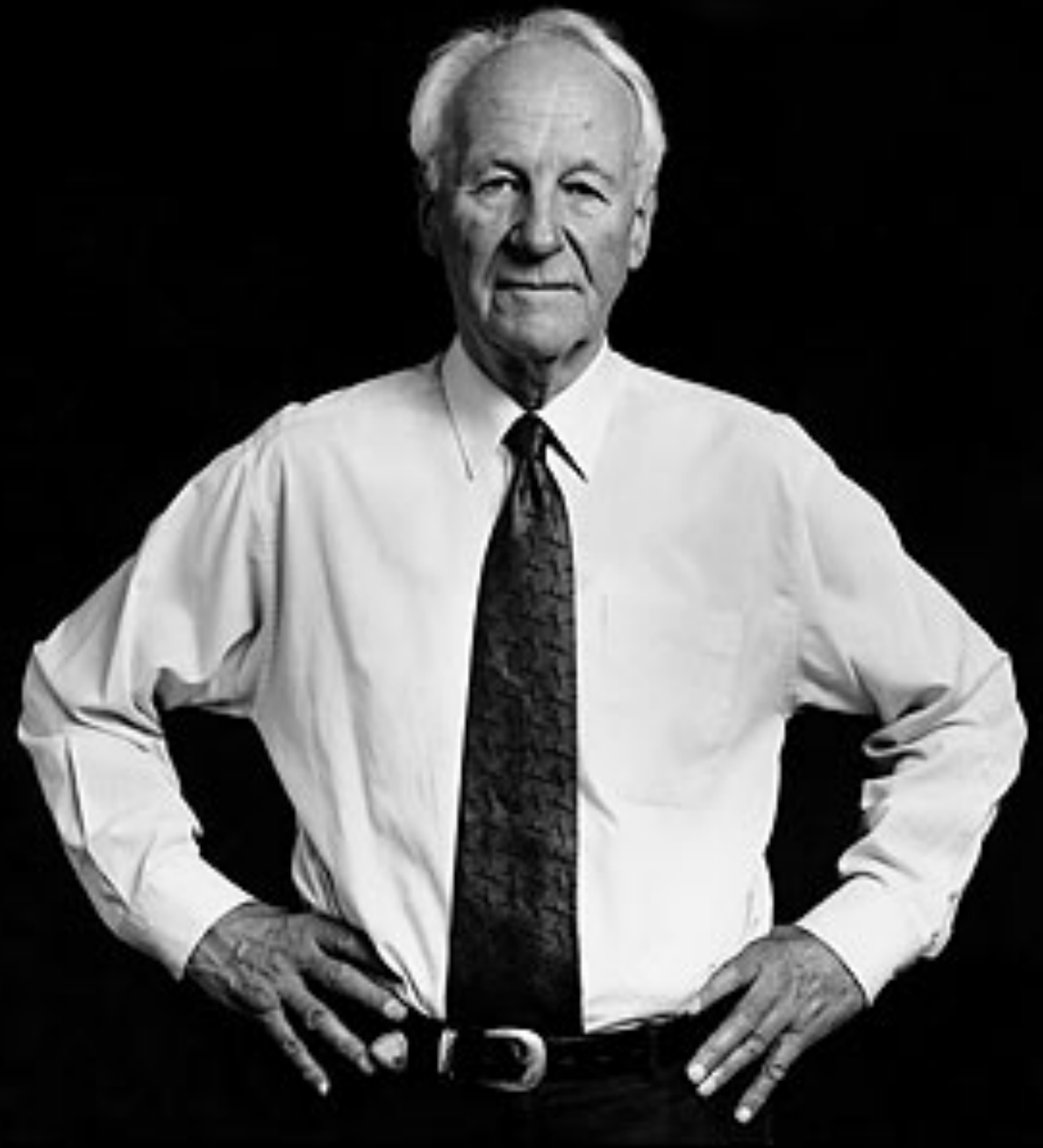


“SIN”

**“missing
the mark”**

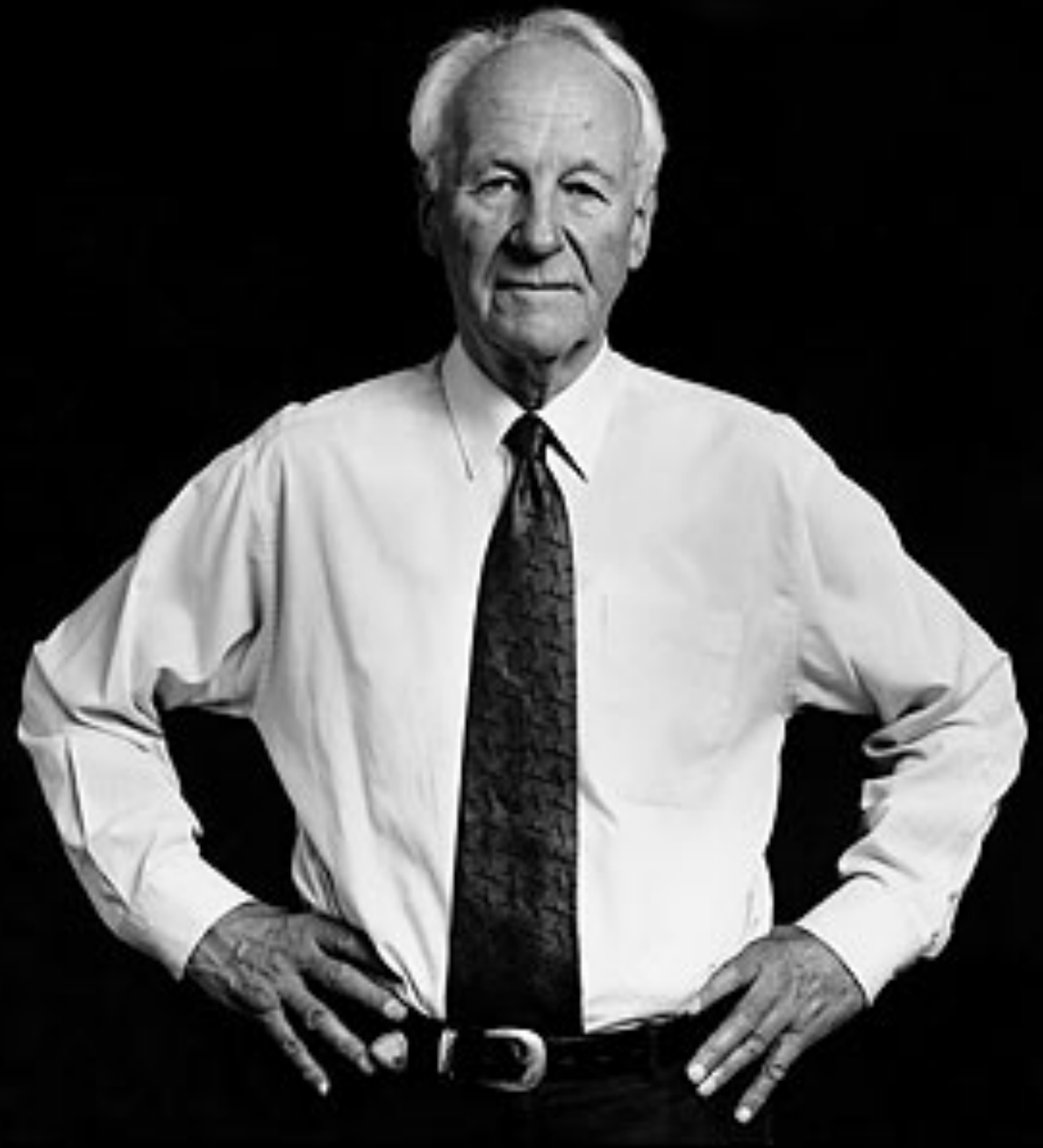


**Like salvation,
sin is a word
that belongs to
the traditional
Christian
vocabulary.**



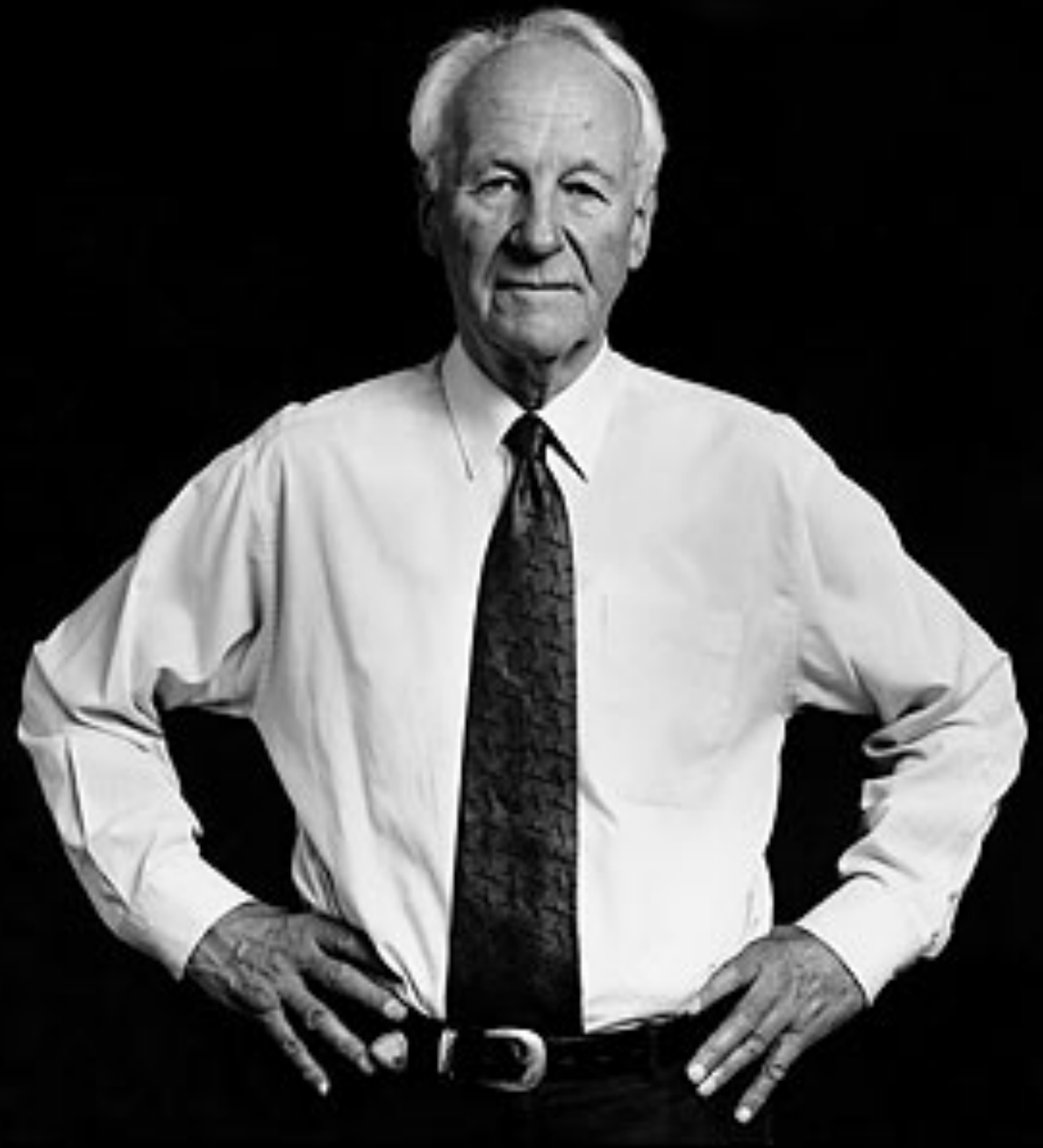
John Stott (1921-2011)

**“I am not a sinner,”
people often say,
because they seem
to be associating
sin with specific
and rather sensa-
tional misdeeds
like murder,
adultery, and theft.**



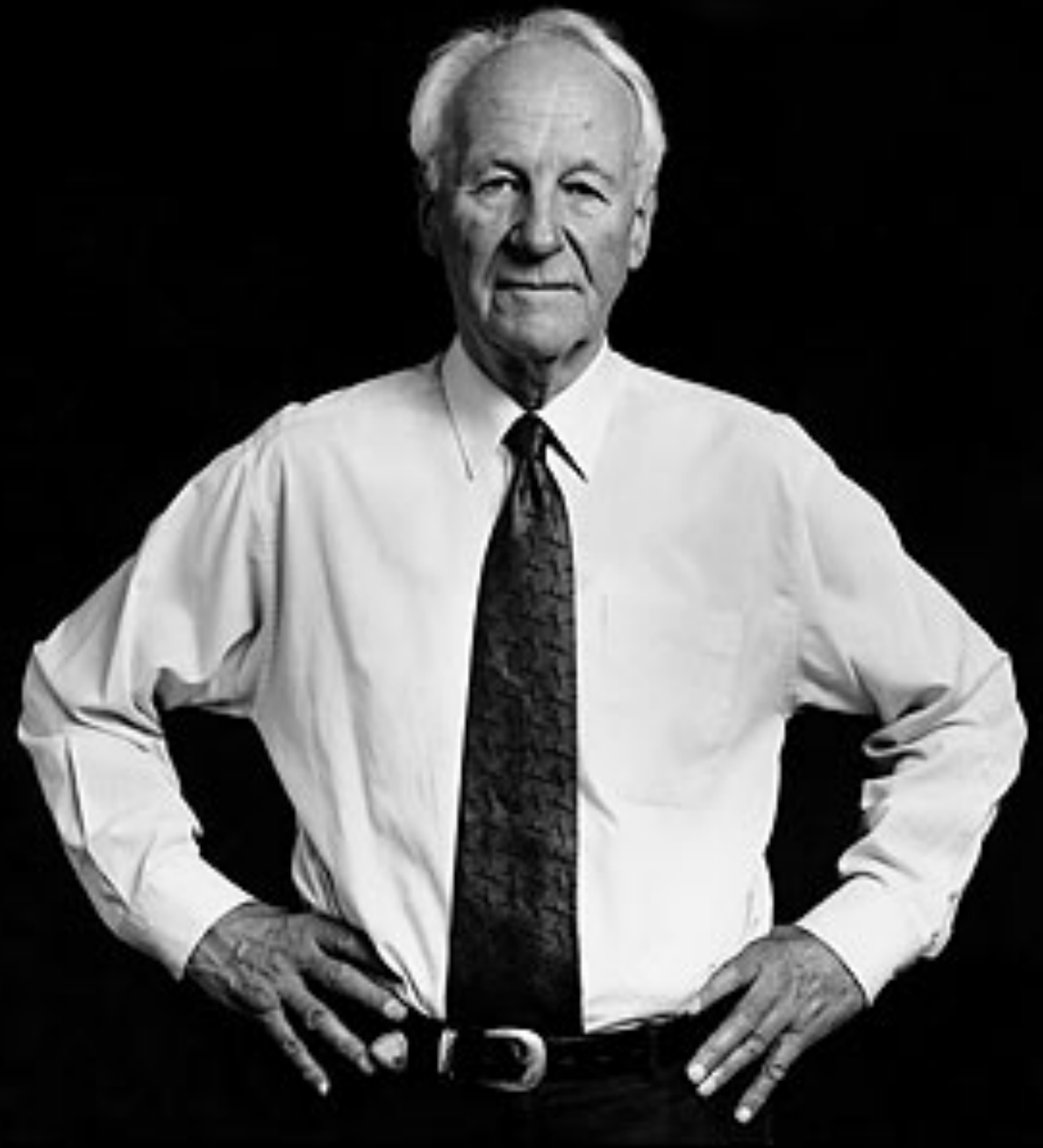
John Stott (1921-2011)

**But “sin” has a
much wider
connotation than
that...What the
Bible means by sin
is primarily self-
centeredness.**



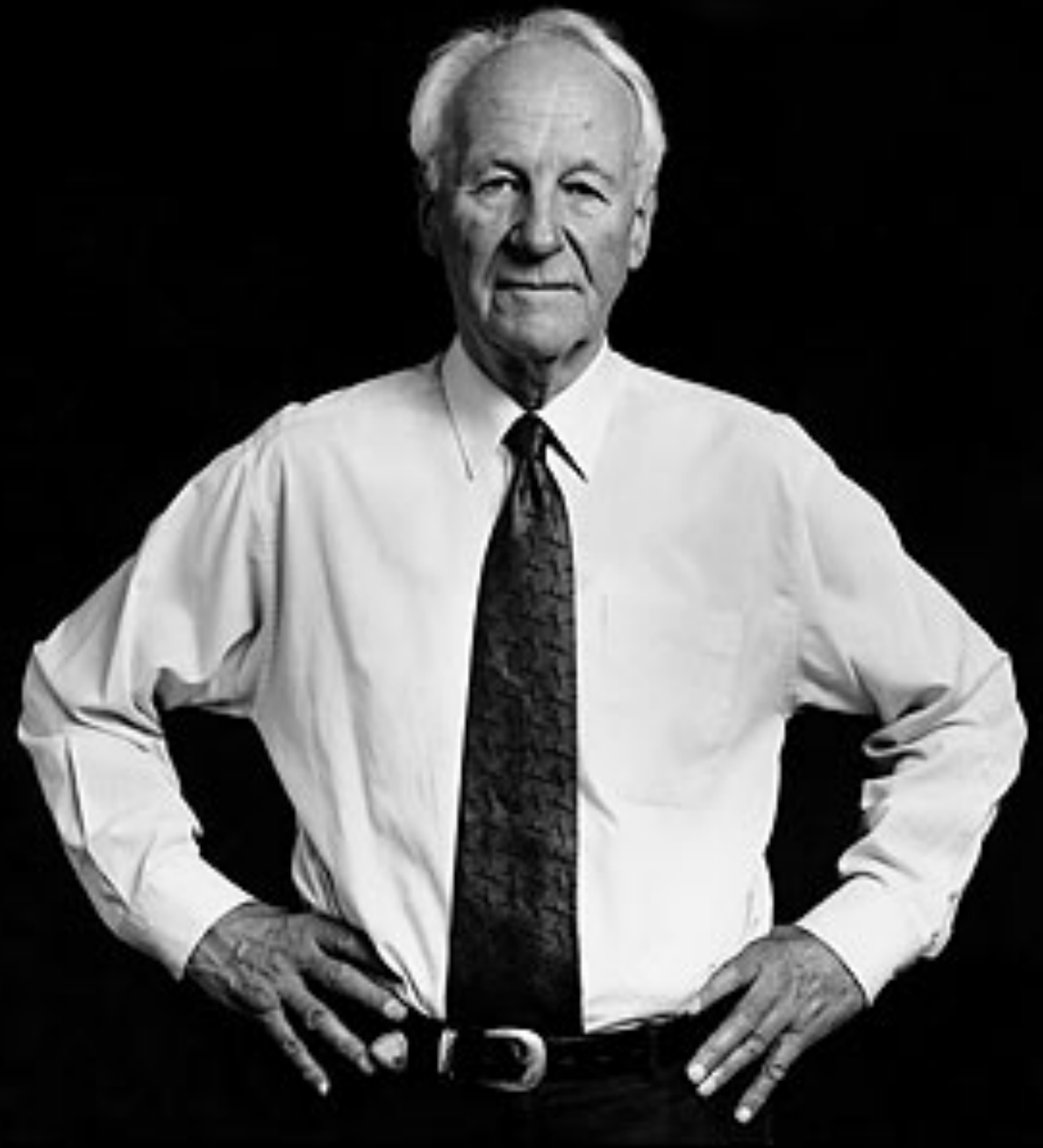
John Stott (1921-2011)

**For God's two great
commandments are
first that we love
him with all our
being and secondly
that we love our
neighbor as we
love our self. Sin,
then, is the reversal
of this order.**



John Stott (1921-2011)

**It is to put
ourselves first...
our neighbor next
when it suits our
convenience, and
God somewhere in
the background.**



John Stott (1921-2011)

Let's note...

- 1 The knowledge of sin
- 2 The vocabulary of sin
- 3 The defiance of sin
- 4 The possession of sin

Psalm 51

4 **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.

THE CLASSIC BESTSELLER

RC SPROUL

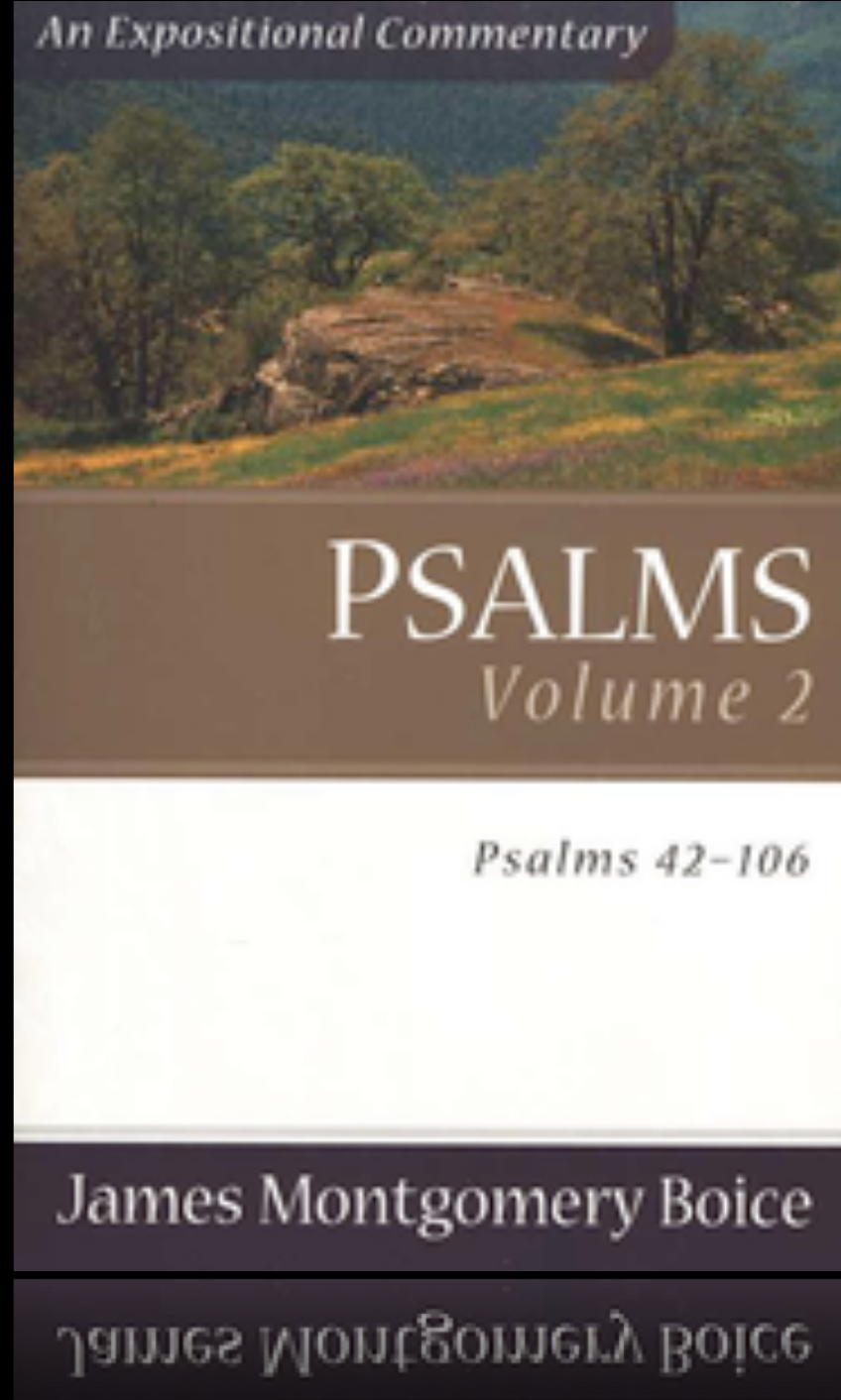
THE
HOLINESS
OF
GOD

Revised and Expanded

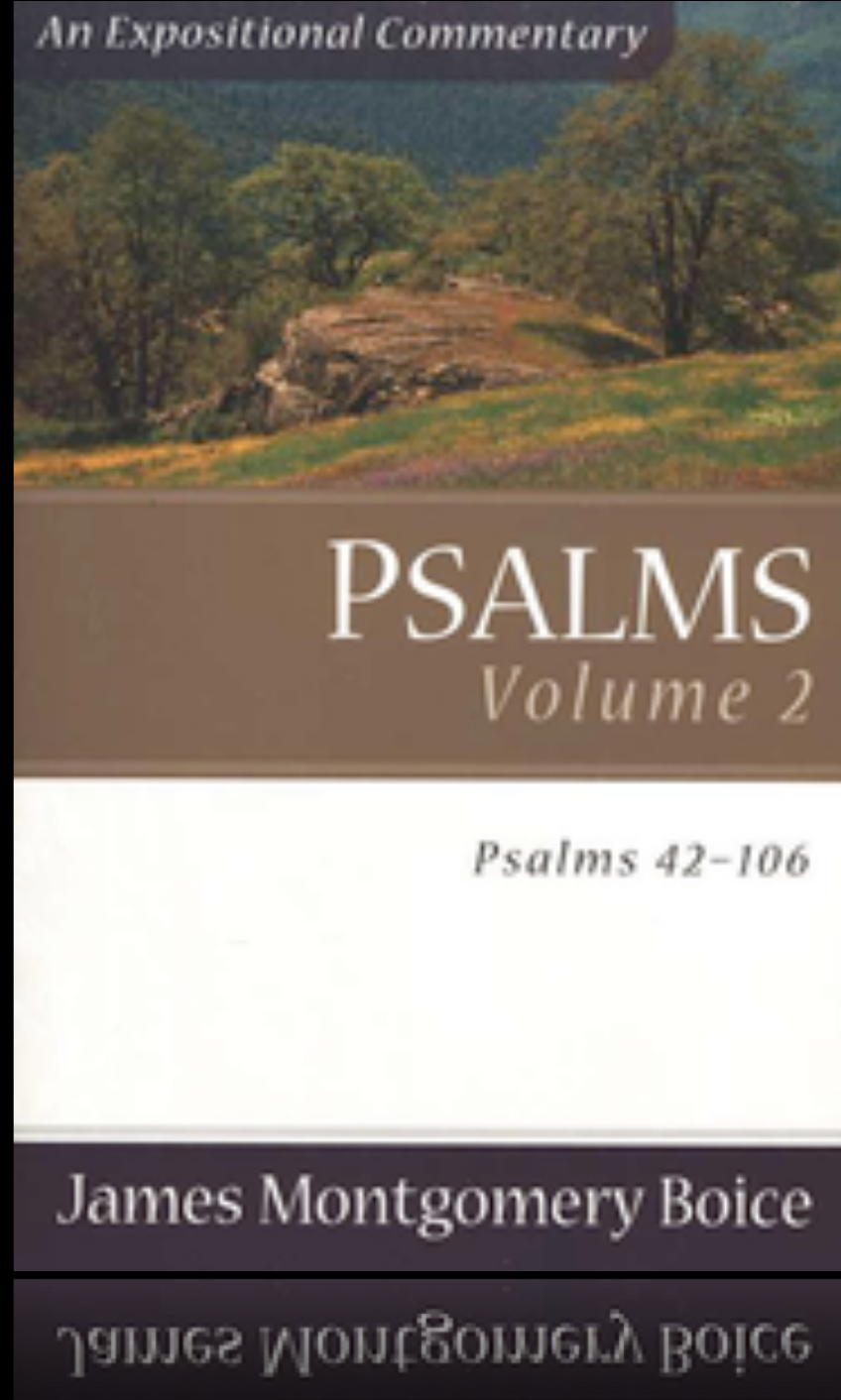
The slightest sin is an act of defiance against cosmic authority. It is a revolutionary act, a rebellious act where we are setting ourselves in opposition to the One to whom we owe everything.

Revised and Expanded

Sin by its very definition is against God, since it is only by God's law that sin is defined as sin. A wrong done to our neighbor is an offense against humanity.



In the eyes of the state, which measure wrongs by its own laws, that wrong may be a crime. Only before God is it a sin.



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- 2 The vocabulary of sin
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Psalm 51

- 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.**

Psalm 51

**4 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.**



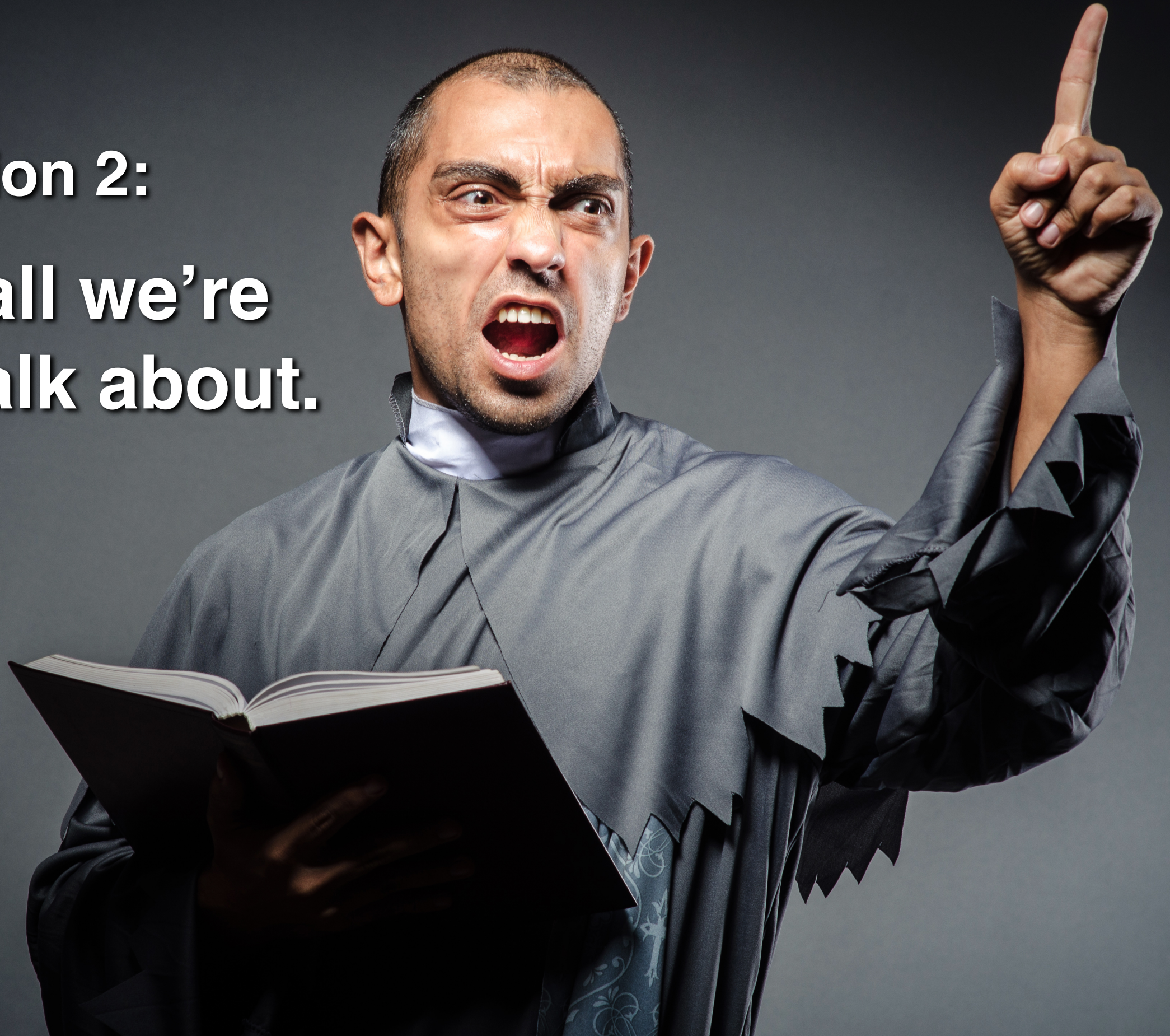
**All of this talk
about sin and
transgression
and judgment
just sounds
so negative.**

**Option 1:
Let's not talk
about sin!**



Option 2:

**Sin is all we're
gonna talk about.**





To concentrate on our rebellion, defection, and folly — to say to the world “I have some bad news and I have some bad news” — is to forget that the center of the Christian religion is not our sin but our Savior.

Cornelius Plantinga
Not The Way It's Supposed To Be

**IT IS ONLY WHEN WE CONFESS
THE HORROR OF WHAT WE'VE
DONE THAT WE ARE IN
A POSITION TO BE STUNNED
BY GOD'S GRACE & MERCY**

Psalm 51

1 Have **mercy** on me, O God,
according to your **steadfast love**;
according to your **abundant mercy**
blot out my transgressions.

Psalm 51

- 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.

**I come to the Lord with
only one appeal, his
mercy. I've no other
defense. I've no other
standing. I've no other
hope. I can't escape
the reality of my
biggest problem-me!**



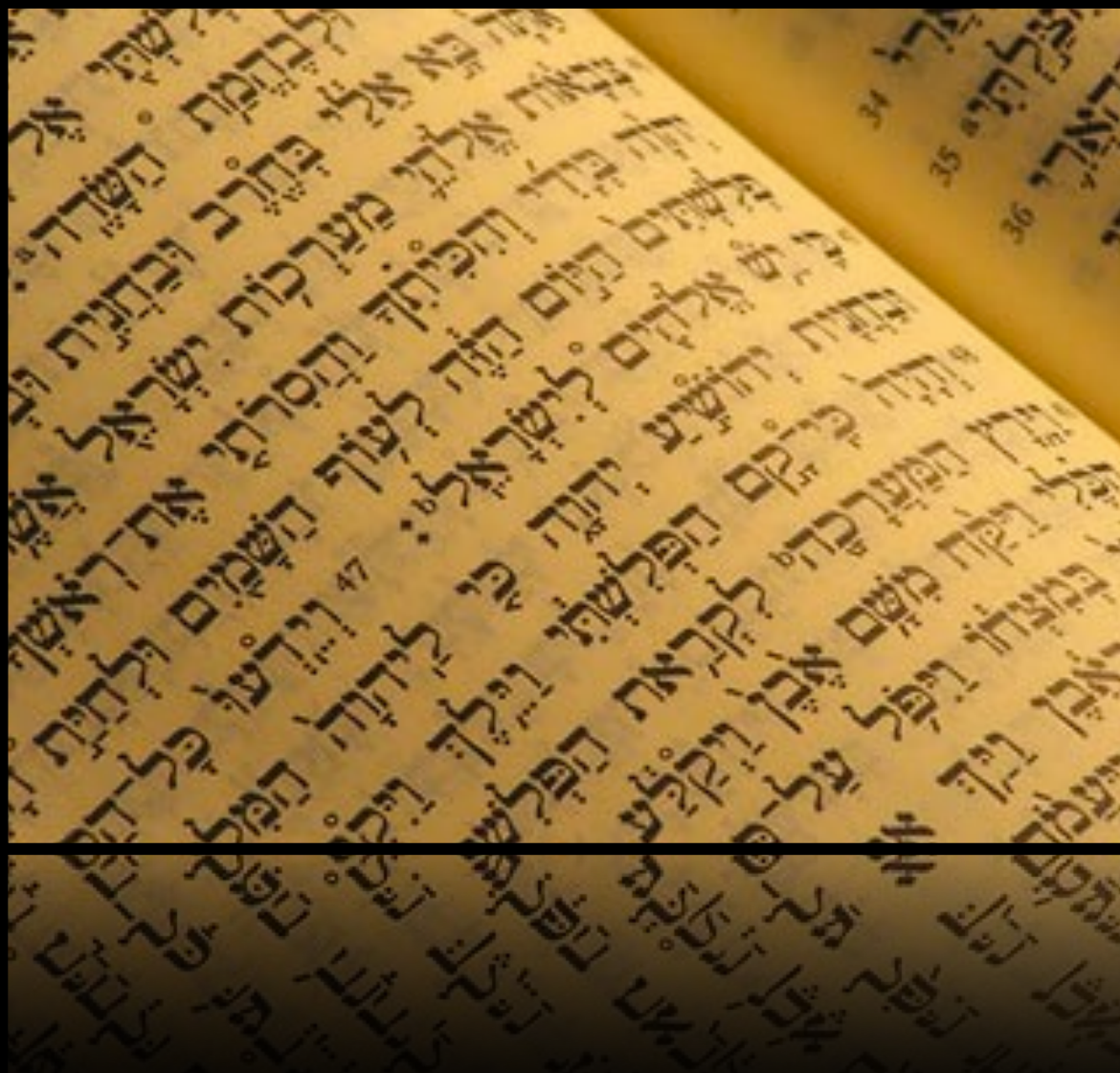
**So I appeal to the one
thing in my life that's
sure and will never fail.**

**I appeal to the one
thing that guaranteed
not only my accep-
tance with God, but the
hope of new begin-
nings and fresh starts.**



**I appeal on the basis of
the greatest gift I ever
have or ever will be
given.... Because of
what Jesus did, God
looks upon me with
mercy.**





— Psalm 32 —

**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.**

**So yes, let's
own our sin...**



**So yes, let's
own our sin...**

**We are learning that we are
more broken, messed up,
rebellious—and yes—sinful
than we often have
the courage to admit.**





The Apostle Paul
Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved....



Dane Ortlund

GENTLE
and
LOWLY

*The Heart of Christ for
Sinners and Sufferers*

The guilt and shame of those in Christ is ever outstripped by his abounding grace. When we feel as if our thoughts, words, and deeds are diminishing God's grace toward us, those sins and failures are in fact causing it to surge forward all the more.



Dane Ortlund

GENTLE
and
LOWLY

*The Heart of Christ for
Sinners and Sufferers*

**...if we can speak of grace as always being drawn out in our sin but as coming to us only in Christ himself, then we are confronted with a vital aspect of who Christ is—
...when we sin, the very heart of Christ is drawn out to us.**

**Where sin increased,
grace abounded
all the more.**

The Apostle Paul
— Romans 5:20 —



**So yes, let's
own our sin...**




**...so that we can
rejoice in the
grace of God!**





**We are learning that we are
more broken, messed up,
rebellious—and yes—sinful
than we often have
the courage to admit,
AND YET AT THE SAME
TIME IN CHRIST
we are more loved,
forgiven, pursued, and
embraced by our Heavenly
Father than we ever
dared to dream possible.**

A close-up photograph of a young child with dark, curly hair. The child has a wide-eyed, curious expression and is holding their right index finger vertically against their lips, a classic gesture for silence or secrecy. The lighting is dramatic, with the child's face illuminated against a dark background. The text 'Remember Hide-n-Seek?' is overlaid on the right side of the image in a bold, yellow font.

**Remember
Hide-n-Seek?**



**Thy mercy is more than
a match for my heart
which wonders to feel
its own hardness depart**



**Dissolved by
Thy goodness I fall
to the ground and
weep to the praise
of the mercy I've found**



**Great Father of mercies
Thy goodness I own
and the covenant love
of Thy crucified Son**



**All praise to the Spirit
whose whisper divine
seals mercy and pardon
and righteousness mine**

“Thy Mercy My God” by John Stocker