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Episode 106 - When God Lifts Your Iniquity

A Revelation Study

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Scott Stanley explores the book of Revelation through Psalm 32 and the cross, explaining God's love, forgiveness, and how confession and humility bring healing. He discusses leaving apostasy, enduring reproach for truth, and walking in the Holy Spirit toward compassion and redemption.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to the KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi, this is Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries, continuing to search out the deep things of God in the book of Revelation. You know, I've been doing this Revelation podcast now for two years, and every single thing I read in the Bible somehow goes back to the book of Revelation. I may not take you there and show you, but if you think about it, it definitely does.

We're at the end of the world, and I know that people, some people would scoff at that. I think most people feel it in their gut that something isn't right. I know a lot of people are expecting to be raptured. I'm not one of them. I want to express today a loving Father, and I say that because, you know, iniquity is something that happens to all of us.

I recently did a video on how Christ is our mediator, not our advocate; that the word "advocate" is actually the word "comforter" in 1 John chapter 2. So we need a mediator. We need someone who can bring us God's understanding, and I want to say that all of my studies are based on the fact that God is love, and love does not make a record of sin.

I want to read in Psalm 32. I may end up reading the whole thing. I don't know. I've got a lot of things to share about God's love toward us. You know, this morning I told my wife, I said, "You know, I love you." I had to ask myself, "What does that even mean to you, Scott? What are you actually saying?" I'm still in that mode of thinking when I say, I love you. What I'm actually saying is I feel affection toward you... I feel affection toward you.

To love her, to say I love her, is something I need to say in my actions. That's how you say "I love you" to a person. It's how you act toward them. You could get angry, and maybe you don't feel so affectionate today, but you can still love.

I think of God, considering my own life, and I look at how God, my Father... and at the time, through my life, I wasn't acknowledging him as my Father. But he would go the extra mile for me, and he would turn the other cheek. He would help me in every way possible when I didn't even realize his power in my life. But it was happening. I know he does this with every person. How do I know that?

Because on the cross, Jesus said, *"Forgive them, for they know not what they do."* Had he not said that, I'm not sure I would find so much comfort in the truth I would possess, without him saying that. Because right there, he covered every base for me. Iniquity happens. Iniquity is going to happen. When it does, I know I can come to my heavenly Father, and I can confess that to him. I can say to him, "I've sinned. I've messed up," and he is just to not only forgive it but lift the iniquity, to help me understand why I did it.

Now, I am no angel, and I freely admit that. Scott Stanley struggles like anybody else, and that's why Psalm 32 is so important.

I just want to read this and say a few things about it, because I don't know how much of this I'm going to get finished of what I want to share today. I've got all kinds of things I wanted to read. But this is key that we understand this. You have a life, and all of our lives, everything we were taught about God was wrong. It was coming from people in the apostasy. That is why we, in our lives, have to overcome every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. You have to be redeemed.

See, every nation, kindred tongue, and people in Revelation 5 is in your head. It's what you have been taught from every nation, kindred tongue, and people. It rolls around in our minds, and it gets in our way of finding peace with God. Jesus even said, *"Your greatest enemies are those of your own household"* (Mat 10:36). Your house, of course, is your mind. But when I look at the household, I look at the literal house we live in, and then you've got family, and family can really get in your way because they will cause peer pressure.

I say peer pressure. You know, you have a love for these people. As you learn the truth, you don't want to see them be lost. I think, well, by just being kind, you know, I'm going to win them to the truth, and they're going to see the apostasy out there. Well, that isn't always the case. Sometimes you have to speak to the problem.

When I first came to the Lord, I told my wife at that time, "I don't care what you do. You do anything you want to do. I cannot make you be faithful. I can't make you do anything. But I am going to serve God. That is what God's calling me to do. I am going to serve God, and if you can't do that, if you can't do it with me, I am still going forward."

That same conviction happened again. I was the Dean at an academy in a religious school. I saw the folly of that church and told them so. I said, "You guys are in as much confusion as the Catholic church is, which you condemn. You're just as confused." My job was on the line. They wanted to fire me for saying that. Well, of course, my wife stood up to that, said, "Well, you know, just quit saying what you're saying, and we've got a good job here, and we've got our kids here, and you're good, we're good."

I said, "No, I'm going forward." At this time, I had seen, knew beyond any doubt that Jesus was the only begotten Son of God. God had revealed that to me. I didn't know what all of that meant. I can remember people saying to me, "Well, what difference does it make if he's the Son of God, only begotten Son of God, born in eternity, so what? What difference does it make?" I couldn't answer that. Today, God has given me answers. Why? Because I remained faithful to the truth.

My only answer to people like that was, "This is what the Bible says. I don't know why it's important other than the fact that it's in the Bible. So this is what matters to me. I'm going to study the Bible. I'm going to believe it, and if I wind up in some other universe than you and in another church or whatever the heck all of this means, I am going to stand with the truth. That's all that matters."

Recently, I have been sharing things with family and getting back that sense of reproach. You know, when you say to people something about the Trinity or whatever it is, you're saying that contradicts them; people don't like that. Of course, they look at me like, "Who in the heck are you? You don't know anything." And really, I don't. Only what God reveals, but what he has revealed, I believe it. If I'm going to say something that will cause me to suffer reproach, so be it.

My point is, as this is happening today, I'm realizing that it really hurts your feelings. It really hurts your feelings to have these people, in their ignorance, come against what it is you're believing. I hope in these podcasts that I'm talking to people who are realizing something is not right in their church, that there has to be more to the gospel than what they're hearing... That somewhere in all of this miasma of darkness that's in these churches, God will send you light, and you can take a step forward and eventually get out of there and let the Lord have his way in your heart.

I know for me, I had to separate from all denominations and allow myself freedom to think and freedom to believe as God led me. So, again, the reproach that we suffer is bothersome. Why? Well, probably because I haven't completely separated from the world. I mean, I can read where Christ made the statement, "*You're in the world, but you're not of the world.*" Talking about the apostles, "*Father, keep them from the evil. I'm not saying take them out of the world, just keep them from the evil*" (Jhn 17:15).

Well, evil is anything that isn't of God. That's the truth. It's evil for someone to try to talk you out of believing the Trinity isn't true. That is evil. It's just like Peter telling the Lord, *"Lord, pity yourself. Let this not be. Don't tell us you're going to die; they're going to kill you. Let this not happen to you."* And Jesus said, *"Get thee behind me, Satan"* (Mat 16:22-23). Why? Because Satan is the adversity that's in every person. Just like Peter, without even realizing it, you can enter into the adversity that rejects and fights against our heavenly Father.

Gosh, I love him. I just love the Lord. I love him. The brilliance, the genius, the wisdom, the majesty of God. You cannot even... I don't even have the vocabulary. He is creating something in us, a workmanship. We're his workmanship, and he's creating something in us. Why? Because you chose to believe. You chose to believe, and he can work with that. You chose to believe, and he is going to finish this work in us.

He would do it for any person on this planet, anybody. But Paul said, Romans 3:22, *"God's righteousness..."* What is righteousness? It's right actions. It's actions of love. It's the action of love. Turn the other cheek. Go the extra mile. Lift up iniquity. You go the extra mile with people like us. Well, *"His righteousness, his actions of love are to everybody, but it's only upon those who believe..."* (Rom 3:22). I believe. I may not have a perfect understanding. My faith may not be perfected, but I trust my Heavenly Father that it will be.

Psa 32:1 Blessed is he, whose transgression is forgiven...

Two words right there: "transgression" and "forgiven." "Transgression" is the word "rebellion." Thoughts produce feelings, feelings move you to action. Your thoughts produce feelings. Rebellion is a feeling. "Forgiven" is the word "lifted up."

Psa 32:1 Blessed is he whose rebellion is lifted up. Your sin is then covered, hidden by God.

He covers it. It's between you and him. What causes you to act on iniquity? Feelings of rebellion. Whether it's rebellion against God, rebellion against your loved ones, whatever the heck it is, it's caused by thoughts. Those thoughts are iniquity. If it was

truth, God's truth, it would reduce those feelings of rebellion, and you would not act on that rebellion and commit sin. Now this is huge because if you'll remember in Matthew 7:23, he says, "*Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity.*" Now look at this.

Psa 32:1 Blessed is he whose rebellion is lifted up, whose sin is covered.

Psa 32:2 Blessed is the man unto whom Jehovah imputes not iniquity. In this guy, his spirit has no guile.

So if I took that to Matthew 7:23, he's imputing iniquity. "*Depart from me. I never knew you. Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity.*" To whom is he going to say that? The people who do not understand Psalm 32, and other places, too. "*Blessed is he, the man unto whom the Lord will not impute iniquity.*" It is not the group seen in Matthew 7. It's another group. It's the last generation church for you and me to realize what's going on.

Psa 32:3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed all through my roaring all the day long.

What he's talking about is a person who's acted on iniquity. You've acted on iniquity, whatever it is. You got angry, you did something, you know, whatever it is, you acted out. You let the rebellious feeling overcome you, and you sinned. You've acted on that. So,

Psa 32:3 When I kept silence after acting on that, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

Psa 32:4 For day and night your hand (your works) was heavy upon me. My moisture is turned into the drought of summer.

Psa 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto you, and my iniquity have I not hid.

So I didn't try to cover up what I was thinking, which made me feel so angry, and that caused me to do what I did. See, I acknowledged my sin. Yeah, I did that, and I didn't hide my iniquity either, what I was thinking when I did that.

Psa 32:5 ... I said, I'm going to confess my rebellion unto Jehovah, and you lifted up the iniquity of my sin.

To "lift it up" means "he helps you to see it." It's up to you to put it in that lake of fire. That lake of fire is within every one of us. *It was made for the devil and his angels ... the devil and his angels* (Mat 25:41). The devil is the author of iniquity (1Jn 3:8). We see it in Genesis chapter 3. You have Adam, Eve, and the serpent. The serpent speaks only to Eve. Eve is your emotional side. Your emotional side is how you see a thing, how you see yourself, and how you see others.

Your emotional side is your spirit. God's emotional side is his spirit. It's called the Holy Spirit. It's how he sees a thing. Well, that's what the Holy Spirit is. It's how God sees us as Jesus portrayed it on the cross. How does God see us? How does God see us overcoming the iniquity? That's what's in the cross. That's the message of the cross.

So as I look at this, I acknowledge my sin. I did that. I'm not hiding what I was thinking. I'm not saying I'm right. I'm just saying I'm going to tell you this is what I thought. I'm going to confess the rebellion that happened in my heart when I thought that. And what is Jehovah, our Heavenly Father, going to do? He's going to lift up the way you're thinking. He's going to lift up the iniquity of my sin. The iniquity is the root of it. He doesn't just forgive you, "All right, you're forgiven," and let you go on through life carrying that iniquity.

Again, Matthew 7:22-23, "*Depart from me. You guys are workers of iniquity.*" ... "*But, Lord, haven't we done all these things in your name?*" ... "*You're a worker of iniquity.*" Now, Psalm 32, verse 6,

Psa 32:6 For this shall everyone that is godly, (King James put "godly," it's "kind"). For this shall everyone that is kind pray unto you in a time when you may be found ...

Again, I'm telling you guys, we're in the acceptable time. It's acceptable now as a Gentile to enter into the truth of Messiah. He came for the Jew, but this is now an acceptable time, Paul tells us. "*Now is that time*" (2Co 6:2). Well, we're in it.

Psa 32:6 For this shall every one that is kind pray unto you in a time when you may be found ...

That's also when you're humble enough and quiet enough. You're tired of living in what you've been living in. You're tired of feeling that. Let me tell you, this is something I wanted to read eventually in this podcast, but I'm going to read it now, because this is where it fits in, actually. Matthew chapter 5, verse 3,

Mat 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, ...

There's your spirit, there's your emotional side, how I see a thing. Well, to be poor in spirit, "Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit. I'm poor in spirit. I don't know anything." Well,

Mat 5:3 Blessed are those who are poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Poor in spirit brings you to a time when you can find God.)

Mat 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn (for what they're doing, they see what they've done). Well, they're going to be comforted. (Those who are mourning are in a place where they can find God.)

Mat 5:5 Blessed are the meek, they'll inherit the earth.

Well, the meek can find God. It's a time for them. That's the time when you reach that poor in spirit, mourning, meek, you hunger and thirst for the actions of love. You want to act love. Well, now you're in a place where he can answer you.

Mat 5:7 Blessed are the merciful. Well, they're going to obtain mercy themselves. (Father, please dismiss my sin as I dismiss what people have done to me.)

Mat 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they are the ones who are going to see God. (That is what puts you in the place of finding God, of being in that place.)

Mat 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. (Well, here's a biggie now for the last generation church, verse 10.)

Mat 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for actions of love. Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:11 Blessed are you, when men disgrace you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, because of me.

Mat 5:12 Well, rejoice, be exceedingly glad. Great is your reward in heaven. This is how they persecuted the prophets who came before you.

So when I look at Psalm 32, verse 6,

Psa 32:6 For this shall everyone that is kind, pray unto you in a time when you may be found...

Well, there it is, Matthew 5. God can be found literally, if you look at time, any time. It's you who gets in the way. If you can humble yourself before God, mourning for what you've done... See, that's what I'm seeing in Psalm 32. This is the time that you'll be able to realize the truth about God. God is love, man. God is love! He is not making a record of your sin. He has never made a record of your sin! And on the cross, Jesus proved it. *"Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing."*

Thank God he said that. Thank God that he said that, and we know... see, what do we know? When he said that, he was proving he was a perfect sacrifice. He had no blemishes of unforgiveness in his mind. He was not blemished. He wasn't carrying anger toward the people killing him. *"Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing."* This is why he said that; it made him the perfect sacrifice.

The sacrifice is what God gives to us. It had to be perfect if he is going to give it to us, because he gives it to us to show us what perfection is. It had to be perfect if he was giving it to us. We had to see that. I don't know how many times I have said that myself, "Dear God, I didn't know what I was doing. God, please forgive me, help me." Sometimes that's really all you can say. But he is faithful and just to meet you there and be there for you.

Psa 32:6 For this shall everyone that is godly, that is kind, pray unto you in a time when you may be found...

Pray, pray unto you in a time you may be found. Again, he can be found any time. You're the one who gets in the way of that. But if you're humble, you'll find him.

Psa 32:7 You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble...

If I approach you, and I'm just going to say with the Lord's Prayer... I recently did a study on the Lord's Prayer. The whole thing is about love. It's helping you walk in love toward

everyone on the planet. It's all love and God's kingdom, of course. It's his mind; it's what's in his mind. What is in his mind concerning you and me is portrayed on the cross. So on the cross I see the Son of God. I see him portraying me. I see the Father there with his Son, and the Son portraying the Father's thoughts... the Father's thoughts.

Listen, Jesus is the Logos of God. I've got to say, too, that is not Iwgos (λωγος), it's logos, (λογος). It's two short O's... logos. He's the Logos of God. What does that mean? Logos is a concept. He was a concept in the mind of God. Well, guess what? All of us were. This is why he brought forth his Son to correct us. Hence, if it's in his mind, if it's how he sees it, that means it's the Holy Spirit. That's what it means, the Holy Spirit, which is symbolized in the city New Jerusalem. Well, that's the mother of us all. That's what he means. We were in the mind of God.

So on the cross, I'm seeing the Son of God portraying humanity. I'm seeing the Father's love, and the Father's inward picture portrayed outwardly... Crown of thorns, stripes on the back, nakedness, darkness. See, all of that is a portrayal of how God sees us. Well, if that is true, then that is God's understanding portrayed on the cross, which is the Holy Spirit, which is the mother of us all. Father, Mother, Son, and, could I just say, children? Children of God are all on that cross.

The Father, the Mother, the Son of God, and God's children... those who can believe it because it will be on them (Rom 3:22). Psalm 32 is how you stay in that place. You goof up, you mess up... we all do. Come to the Lord. Listen, you know, he already knows... he's known you from eternity. He could take you and me and trace us back, all the way back to the first man and woman, and show you all the iniquity that has taken place in every generation of every human being on the planet.

Don't think he didn't know you were going to goof up. That's silly. What he has done is devise a way for you to be free from that iniquity. What? Well, we read it. Lord, I'm not hiding my sin, nor am I going to hide the iniquity. I did it, and you know what? I did that because I felt like this. Lord, why did I feel like this? Show me. Please show me. Show me what's going on here.

I'm going to make my way over to 1 John, and I'm doing this for the sake of time, really. But one of these days, I would love to just choose a chapter, just go through the whole

chapter, and just show you what God's revealing. But in 1 John, chapter 1, I want to start reading at verse 4, 1 John 1:4.

1Jn 1:4 These things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

1Jn 1:5 This then is the message which we heard of him, Christ, and we're declaring unto you, God is light. In Him is no darkness at all. (On the cross, it was darkness because he was portraying you.)

1Jn 1:6 If we say that we're having fellowship with him, and we're not walking in light, well, we're lying, you're not doing the truth. (You're not doing it.)

1Jn 1:7 But if you walk in the light as he is in the light, ...

If I can look at you the way God does... Well, how are you going to do that? Well, he's going to have to give me his Spirit. "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. You're going to have to give me your spirit." To get that, you're going to have to let go of yours. Well, you do that on the cross. You'll find death to self, and he will give you his Spirit, the Holy Spirit, and you can walk in the light as he's in the light... and you can look at people the way he does. And,

1Jn 1:7 ... we'll have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son, will cleanse us from all sin.

Again, you can't have blood without a broken body. That's impossible. When we see these verses about "the blood," we're talking about the cross and what was portrayed there.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we don't have sin, well, you're deceiving yourself because you do. And the truth is not in us if you think you don't have sin.

1Jn 1:9 But if we will confess the sin, he is faithful and righteous (see, it's an act of love) to dismiss your sin and then he will cleanse you from the iniquity. (Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute iniquity (Psa 32:2). Blessed is that guy.)

1Jn 1:10 If we say that we haven't sinned, we're making him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Can I trust people will listen to this and find hope and comfort? That's my goal. I want to move us all closer to Jesus Christ, closer to our heavenly Father. Closer and more

involved with the Holy Spirit, and letting that Holy Spirit bring us bowels of compassion. Bowels of compassion toward people who are coming at you, who are coming against the truth, who are trying to rip that away from you.

If you have bowels of compassion, the symbol of that is a harp, and you're playing a harp. The song you sing, again, Revelation 14, the 144,000 equals truth that's been redeemed. The harpers are harping with their harps. They've been redeemed from mankind, and the harpers are playing a song no one can learn but the truth of the 144,000 redeemed. Let that sink in for a minute, because your compassion toward everybody... Well, toward whom? What do you mean? Well, how about Democrats and Republicans? How about everything going on in your life? How about your brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles, all these people who just reject you?

Can you harp? Can you play the harp, have bowels of compassion? Because the only people who can learn that possess the 144,000, the only people who can sing that song with you. What does that mean? That means they aren't singing that back. They don't have the compassion for you that God expects us to have for them. They don't have it. If they could, if they could have it, being in the Universal Church, we should all just go back to the Universal Church. I'm telling you it isn't there.

I want the truth. I want to worship God in spirit and in truth. You need help in understanding truth. Can you come to the Lord in humility, mourning, in meekness, suffering persecution because you believe the truth? Can you come to the Lord like that? Well, if you can, then yours is the kingdom.

He is your Father. You are his child. You're part of the family, and what glues us all together is the Holy Spirit. It makes us all one. The Holy Spirit, God, is the maker of it. God is giving you that Spirit so you can marry it. The maker of the Holy Spirit is God. The bride... we are going to marry our Mother. That is the key.

This is all Isaiah 65, 66. I'm telling you, God loves us. The symbols are fantastic. The truth is glorious. He is everything good, everything right, everything righteous, and we are his workmanship.

Heavenly Father, dear God, thank you for your love and help. Thank you for your love and blessing. May we glorify you in Jesus' name.