

# **Psalm 51 – Character**

## **“Create in me a clean heart”**

**Orlando Bible Students Special Study**  
**Sunday July 26, 2015**



**Background References:** Psalm 51; II Samuel 11:1-27 & 12:1-13; Psalm 32; Reprints pp. 3253-3255; Expanded Biblical Comments on Psalm 51

1. **What is the background of this Psalm—who wrote it, and what was his reason for doing so?** *II Sam. 11:1-27 & 12:1-13; Title to Psalm 51 found above verse 1; Expanded Biblical Comments on title*
2. **In verses 1 and 2, David mentions the mercy and lovingkindness of God, and then asks to be washed and cleansed from his sin. Why are all of these aspects of God’s purposes so important?** *Ps. 51:1,2; Ps. 69:13; Ps. 145:9; Isa. 63:7; Ps. 19:12; I Cor. 6:11; Heb. 10:21,22*
3. **Verses 3-5 point out the fact that we all sin because of our inheritance from Adam. Since this is true, why do we still need, as David did, to openly acknowledge before God our transgressions and weakness?** *Expanded Biblical Comments on vss. 3-5; Ps. 32:5; Prov. 28:13; Eph. 2:1-6*
4. **What does the Psalmist mean in verse 6 by “truth in the inward parts,” and wisdom in “the hidden part?”** *Ps. 51:6; I Sam. 16:7; Rom. 7:22; Eph. 3:16; I Pet. 3:4*
5. **David makes numerous requests of God in verses 7-12 to assist him in being restored back to divine favor. Discuss how these should also be our requests, providing scriptures to go with your answer.** *Ps. 51:7-12*
6. **David says in verses 13-15 that if God restores him back to his favor, then, having learned important lessons, he will be able to help others. In what ways does he say he will be able to do this? How does that apply to the lessons we are learning now relative to our future work in the kingdom?** *Expanded Biblical Comments on vss. 13-15; Isa. 61:1; II Cor. 1:3,4; II Cor. 5:18-20*
7. **We are striving to live a life of sacrifice, as instructed in Romans 12:1, yet David seems to be saying something different in verses 16 & 17. How do we reconcile these thoughts?** *Expanded Biblical Comments on vss. 16,17; Rom. 12:1; Hos. 6:6; Eph. 5:1,2; Phil. 4:16-18; Heb. 13:15,16*
8. **In the last two verses of this Psalm, David is speaking prophetically. What period(s) and work in God’s plan is he referring to in these verses?** *Expanded Biblical Comments on vss. 18,19; Ps. 102:16; Isa. 58:12; Luke 12:32; Rev. 3:12; Mal. 1:11; 3:4*