**Persisting after bad choices** – **Ps. 51**

2 Sam. 11: 2 – 5 – one evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, she is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite. Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him and he slept with her. Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, I am pregnant

2 Sam. 12:15, 18 – the Lord struck the child that Uriah’s widow bore to David, so that he was very sick…then it happened on the seventh day that the child died.

**The trouble of sinful choices**

1. David’s story reminds us of how quickly we can stumble into sinfulness when we have been living in holiness before God
2. Today many live with regret, sadness, & lasting consequences of past sinful choices.
3. Sinful choices have lasting results.
4. The pain of living with past sinful choices is a challenge for all who want to walk with God
5. How can we persist or endure after we have committed sinful choices?

**Today we see how David endured his sinful choices by seeking God’s forgiveness**

**Hear God’s Word**

1. **The memories of our sinful choices linger in our minds – 51:3**

My sin is ever before me

1. **The shame of our sinful choices causes distance from God – 51:4**

Against you and you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight

1. **Confession of our sinful choices to God brings forgiveness from God – 51:7,9**

Purify me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I will be whiter than snow

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities

1. **God uses our sinful choices to humble & use us – Ps. 51:17**

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise

**Believe God’s Word**

1. There are no sinful choices from your past beyond the forgiveness of God
2. Every sinful act carries consequences that affect us personally and others
3. Take your sinful choices to God – admit them to Him – ask Him to forgive you
4. Allow the consequences of your past sinful choices to make your more like Christ

**Live God’s Word**

1. Rejoice in the forgiveness of God
2. Accept God’s discipline as He uses the consequences of your sinful choices to make you holy
3. Renounce the hidden things of shame that you carry because of past sinful choices
4. Remember sometimes God takes the worst consequences of our sinful past to produce the greatest blessings for the future!