

"RESTORATION THROUGH CONFESSION"

Psalm 51:1-19

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Guilt, the invisible enemy of your soul:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- B. God's gracious provision for our guilt:
 - 1. The lost person:
 - 2. The truly saved person:
- C. The dangerous dark alley of David's guilt: (*Ps. 32; 38; 51*)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

II. CONFESSION THAT REFUSES TO MINIMIZE THE SIN:

- A. "Cleanse me": vv. 1-7 (*See back*)
 - 1. Sin, "displeasing the Lord": (*II Sam. 11:27b*)
 - a. Despising God's commandments: (*II Sam. 12:9*)
 - b. Despising God: (*II Sam. 12:10*)
 - c. The Lord is blasphemed among the lost: (*II Sam. 12:14*)
 - 2. Seeking mercy, rather than justice:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - 3. Seeking forgiveness: (*I Jn. 1:9-10*) (*See back*)
- B. "Restore me": vv. 8-12
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- C. "Use me": vv. 13-19
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

- A.
- B.
- C.

SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breathe my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.

"Guilt is the individual's response to his consciousness of having violated God's holiness. God sets his own holiness as a standard, and anything that falls short of His holiness is classified as sin in Scripture. An individual who falls short of God's standard suffers the pangs of guilt. No man is so depraved that he does not have a conscience, (Rom. 1:19) and that conscience is the voice of God convicting him of his failure to attain God's standard of holiness and righteousness. Therefore, man, apart from the work of Jesus Christ, is guilt ridden, whether he is in a sophisticated city or in secluded jungles."

Dr. Dwight Pentecost

"Confession is all about naked honesty before God or before fellow Christians. It means describing our actions with the same words God uses, and no dissembling or distortion. Confession will not allow us to foolishly hide, as Adam and Eve did in the Garden; it will force us to change from the inside out which will take us beyond just our tears. (Heb. 12:17; II Cor. 7:9-10) The act of confession is intensely painful and yet thoroughly liberating."

Dr. David Jeremiah

"Repentance acknowledges the wrong, leading to a sorrowful brokenness and secondly, a confession that only humility can create". (Heb. 12:17)

When we confess our faults to God or to one another, we usually try to explain away the sin. Explanations are requests not for forgiveness, but for understanding. Movement from self-centeredness toward Christ-centeredness happens only when we expose our excuses for these interpersonal failures, not as "understandable mistakes" but rather inexcusably selfish choices.

True requests for forgiveness never explain, they only admit, acknowledging that the error was without justifiable cause. "Repentant people" realize that their inexcusable wrong can either be judged or forgiven, never understood and overlooked, and so they beg for forgiveness with no thought of deserving it." (Ps. 51 - *My sin is a stain I cannot wash out, a debt I cannot repay, and a crime worthy of death, with no one to blame but myself.*)

**** Seeking forgiveness: 1) Look at the sin from God's perspective (how it hurt Him and how He hates what it does to others and ultimately to you; 2) take full responsibility for the offense; 3) ask God to help you hate the sin the way he hates it; 4) ask for His help to never to do it again; and lastly, 5) construct barriers that will keep you a safe distance from the temptation, so you won't repeat the offense. (I Jn. 1:9; Acts 26:20)**

Forgiveness when properly received, is designed to change your behavior. Being extravagantly forgiven by Christ as a believer, should change my behavior in continually forgiving all fellow believers. When I can't forgive one who has sinned against me, I have failed to grasp what Christ continually forgives me day in and day out. (Mt. 18:23-35; Eph. 4:32)

**** "Forgiving someone involves saying: 1) I will not bring up the matter ever again; 2) I will not tell other people about the wrong committed against me; and 3) I will treat you from this moment on, as if the wrong never occurred. Bitterness erases forgiveness or forgiveness erases bitterness. They cannot coexist." (Eph. 4:32; Isa. 38:17; 43:25; 44:22; Jer. 31:34; Micah 7:18-19; Rom. 4:7-8)**

"Our debt to God is enormous, and His forgiveness is extravagant. In light of this, Jesus allows no excuse for withholding forgiveness from others."