



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1.8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

March 22, 2015

“I Have Sinned!”

Bryan Garlock

In a parable Jesus said, “...Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:10-14

Many times within Scripture men have proclaimed, “I have sinned.” It is this realization that all must come to before godly sorrow leads us to repentance (2 Cor. 7:10). It is upon this realization and our confession of faith that we request the blood of Christ to wash away our sins in baptism (Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). Since “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” it is essential to our salvation to be washed in the blood (Rom. 3:23; Rev. 1:5).

Not every person who declares, “I have sinned” is truly sorry. John the Baptist preached, “Bear fruits in keeping with repentance...” (Luke 3:8). Paul taught, “As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter” (2 Cor. 7:9-11). Therefore, when we come to Jesus we must cease our sins (see Rom. 6:1; Col. 3:5-14)!

Pharaoh is a prime example of one whose repentance did not bear fruit. He announced twice, “I have sinned” (Exo. 9:27; 10:16). Though he made the claim, he continued in his sin (9:28-35; 10:18-20). One who makes such an acknowledgment must turn from his or her wickedness or else their repentance is fruitless.

Further, though we may acknowledge our sins, we must also accept the consequences of our sins. Israel was defeated at Ai because an Israelite disobeyed God (Josh. 7:1-11). Achan was caught taking things of which God had commanded otherwise and He said, “I have sinned” (Josh. 7:20). However, his sin caused Israel to lose the battle and He and his family later suffered from his wrong (Josh. 7:24-26). Continued on back...

Northside
church Of Christ

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us
- Men's Bible April 12th @ 3:30 PM
- Kid's drill April 5th @ 4 PM
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

- Mar. 22 Deut. 32-34, Ps 91
- Mar. 23 Josh. 1-4
- Mar. 24 Josh. 5-8
- Mar. 25 Josh. 9-11
- Mar. 26 Josh. 12-15
- Mar. 27 Josh. 16-18
- Mar. 28 Josh. 19-21

Additionally, when one confesses, "I have sinned" he or she may not pass the blame or make an excuse or else their repentance is not true. King Saul did this when He spared King Agag and the livestock (1 Sam. 15:9). Indeed he confessed (15:24, 30), but the excuses immediately poured forth and the blame game began.

What's more, when one sins he or she must understand that God will forgive. Take for instance Saul the persecutor. He persecuted the church (Acts 9.1), but God forgave him when he humbly obeyed Jesus in baptism (Acts 22.16). Judas, on the other hand, betrayed Jesus and though he acknowledged, "I have sinned," he went and hung himself (Matt. 27.5). If only Judas had known that we all betray Jesus and that He will forgive us when we ask (1 John 1.9).

There are two individuals who demonstrate the proper attitude of repentance: king David and the prodigal son. First, after David sinned with Bathsheba and attempted to cover it up, Nathan confronted him (2 Sam. 11; 12). Here, David confessed, "I have sinned" (12.13). He not only confessed, but he bore fruit in keeping with repentance (Psalm 41.4; 51.3-4). He did not shift blame nor did he use excuses. He confessed and made it right!

Second, Jesus tells the parable of the prodigal son. After wasting his inheritance, he comes to his senses and realizes and acknowledges that he is in sin (Luke 15.18-19). He confesses such to his father and because of his humbleness, his father accepts him back as a son.

The prodigal son teaches us about our relationship with our heavenly Father. When we sin and come to such a realization, we can come to Him asking for forgiveness. John wrote, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1.9). When we do so, our Father accepts us back into fellowship with Him. If you are a child of God and are in sin, why don't you repent, confess you have sinned and come back to the Father today? BG

