



The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

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For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Anyone who is trying to live a faithful life to God has felt the devastation that sin brings. There are many consequences of sin both physically and most important spiritually. However, for the Christian the guilt of committing sin is often overwhelming. There are few who could sympathize with that feeling more than David.

The most notorious sin that David ever committed was his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah. These events are recorded in 2 Samuel 11-12. In chapter 12 Nathan is sent to rebuke David for what he had done and upon hearing the rebuke David said, "I have sinned against the LORD." Though we cannot hear the inflection of his voice or the anguish with which he made that statement it is clear that the guilt of sin had fallen on him. This becomes even more clear when we read Psalm 51 which was written in light of these events. In this psalm we learn five important things about confession and forgiveness of sin.

The first is in verse one, "Have mercy upon me, O God..." David pleads for God to have mercy on him. We briefly discussed in a recent sermon what mercy is. It is simply not getting what we do deserve. According to Jeremiah his mercy is new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). When dealing with the weight of sin we need to do as David did and entreat the Lord for mercy, because His mercy endures forever.

The second is likewise in verse one, "...blot out my transgressions." David has written similar things in other psalms. One example is in Psalm 32:1 he said, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." When dealing with the burden of sin we must ask God to blot it out.

The third is in verse two, "wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." Not only did David want God to blot out his sin but he wanted God to cleanse him from it. The only way for anyone's sins to be washed away is through the blood of Christ. "To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood..." (Revelation 1:5). Thankfully the Christian has been given the promise that the blood of Christ will continuously cleanse us if we are faithful to him (1 John 1:7).

The fourth is in verse three "For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me." Though at first, David tried to hide his sin with Bathsheba we now see that he is admitting his fault. We likewise are commanded to do this in 1 John 1:9, "if we confess our sins..." If we try to cover our sins they will never be forgiven but, when we acknowledge them and confess them to God, He will forgive us.

The fifth is in verse ten, "create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Recently I have really grown to admire David's desire for his heart to be right with God. After all, if our heart is right our actions will follow. When we sin, we should ask the Lord to correct our heart.

David lays out five things for us to do when we do sin. Ask for God's mercy, as for Him to blot out our sin, ask Him to cleanse us from our sin, acknowledge and confess our faults to God, and ask Him to correct our heart. You will find that when these things are employed that you can truly overcome sin and the guilt of it.

Renn Ferguson