

Don't forget about our radio program. The broadcast is every Sunday morning from 8:00-8:45 on the HUM. The station can be found at 98.5 in Columbus and 98.3 in Seymour.

The high school class agreed to read through the New Testament in 6 months. Please join them and hold them accountable to daily Bible reading.

Daily Bible Readings

- June 1**
Mark 10
- June 2**
Mark 11
- June 3**
Mark 12
- June 4**
Mark 13
- June 5**
Mark 14
- June 6**
Mark 15
- June 7**
Mark 16

If you are behind in the daily reading, please read 3 chapters a day until you catch up!

The Christian's Confession of Sin (Guideline)

We live in a time in which time to forget rather than confession is the path of restoration sought by many Christians, and accepted by some churches. Many questions have been asked about the Christian's confession of sin, especially the "public confession."

The Bible teaches that Christians ought always confess his faults unto God, and sometimes unto men. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:9). "Confess your faults one to another, that ye may be healed" (Jas. 5:16). In the parable of the prodigal son (Lk. 15:21), the son returned confessing, "Father, I have

sinned against heaven and in thy sight." Sometimes the knowledge and effect of our sins travel much faster and further than news of our repentance and confession. I remember the story of a lady who traveled through a certain town dropping feathers as she went. She then returned trying to recover them. Many had been blown by the wind and were irretrievable. So it is with some of our sins. Our best efforts can not undo all the harm that has been done. A good rule to follow when possible is that the confession be as broad as the knowledge of the sin. This would assure us of al-

ways confessing our sins unto God, for He always knows of our sins (Heb. 4:13, 14). It would mean that sins that were public, or generally known, would be confessed publicly, or generally. I think we see this principle applied in the scriptures. In Mt. 18:15, we read, "Moreover, if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone. If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained a brother." All responsibility toward men can be fulfilled by letting one person know of our repentance if our trespass is against one, and only one knows of it. In Gal. 2:12, we are told that Peter sinned before all; Paul rebuked him

God's Gift of Confession

The Benefits

Reading - Psalm 51

Points to Consider:

1. Types of Confession
2. Benefits of Confessing to God
3. Benefits of Confessing to Men
4. Improper Reasons to Confess

Types of Confession

CONFESS 1. homologeo lit., "to speak the same thing" (homos, "same," lego, "to speak"), "to assent, accord, agree with,"

(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright © 1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers.)

1. Confessing that Jesus is God's Son

Rom 10:9-11 *...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

We must confess that _____ is God's Son in order to be saved.

When we do this we are speaking the same thing _____ spoke when He said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matt 3:17

Acts 8:34-37 *So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."*

The eunuch is a great example of one who made a confession unto _____.

2. Confessing Our Sins

1 John 1:8-10 *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

When we confess our sins we are saying the _____ thing about our sins that God does. We are agreeing that we did something that is a violation of God's law.

Benefits of Confessing to God

1 John 1:8-10 *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

If we confess our sins, God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ps 32:5 *I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

David knew that _____ was based on confessing his sins to the Lord.

Prov 28:13 *He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*

God extends _____ to the one who confesses and forsakes his sin. However, the one who _____ his sins will not prosper.

Ps 32:1-4 *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.*

When our sins are forgiven we are _____. The heavy weight of God's hand is removed and we find _____.

Acts 8:20-24 *But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! 21 You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity." 24 Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."*

We confess sins to God to _____ the _____ of our sin. Simon did not want the things Peter spoke to happen to him. Repentance linked with confession was how those consequences were avoided.

Ps 51 mercy, blotting out of transgressions, washed thoroughly from iniquities, cleansed from sin, sin purged and we are made clean, washed whiter than snow, able to hear _____ and _____, joy, sins hidden from God, not cast out of God's presence, Holy Spirit, restored joy of _____.

Josh 7:19 *Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, **give glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.***

Confession ultimately brings _____ to God. When we confess we are agreeing with God.

Ps 19:12-13 *Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. 13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.*

Confession of present sins _____ us from committing future sins.

Benefits of Confessing to Men

Matt 5:23-25 *Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

We need to confess to the one who has something against us so God will accept our _____.

Luke 17:3-4 *Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."*

Gen 50:15-21 *When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him." 16 So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, 17 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.'" Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." 19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. 21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

When we confess our sins to people we sin against, we get their _____.
You get a _____ relationship!
Fear is replaced by comfort.

James 5:16 *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

When we confess to the people we sin against and then pray to God together, we receive forgiveness from both man and God.

Num 5:5-10 *Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 6 "Speak to the children of Israel: 'When a man or woman commits any sin that men commit in unfaithfulness against the Lord, and that person is guilty, 7 then he shall confess the sin which he has committed. He shall make restitution for his trespass in full, plus one-fifth of it, and give it to the one he has wronged. 8 But if the man has no relative to whom restitution may be made for the wrong, the restitution for the wrong must go to the Lord for the priest, in addition to the ram of the atonement with which atonement is made for him. 9 Every offering of all the holy things of the children of Israel,*

which they bring to the priest, shall be his. 10 And every man's holy things shall be his; whatever any man gives the priest shall be his."

Confessing our sin must come before we can make _____ for our sin.

1 Cor 5:1-5 *It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles — that a man has his father's wife! 2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. 3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

2 Cor 2:5-9 *But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent — not to be too severe. 6 This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, 7 so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. 8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him.*

We confess our sins so others will know that we have godly sorrow that led us to _____.

Improper Reasons to Confess

We confess to get the benefits we just discussed. If you confess for the wrong reason you won't get the benefits, but you will get a lot of negative unintended consequences!

- You feel pressured.
- You think it will build a relationship by making your vulnerable. This happens a lot with people of the opposite gender.
- You think the more people I tell the more people who can pray for me.
- To get praised for having the courage to confess.
- To one up the other person.
- You want to wear your sin like a badge of honor.
- Done to test the water to see if others will sin with you. The devil uses this a lot with cross gender confession.

Points We Considered

1. Types of Confession
2. Benefits of Confessing to God
3. Benefits of Confessing to Men
4. Improper Reasons to Confess

before all (Gal. 2:14). Could Peter's confession have been less than before all to be effective? When a sin is carried before the church (Mt. 18:17), should not the church also be informed of the repentance?

Suppose that a teacher sees a student at his desk write $2+2=5$. The teacher may inform the student of his mistake, and the student may correct it without anyone other than the teacher knowing of it. No harm will come. However, if the mistake is made at the board before all, then it must be corrected before all. Are we saying one must "walk down the aisle" to confess sin? We care not how one goes about confessing his sins - whether he calls each individual and informs them, or acknowledges to all at once while they are assembled together. Just remember that when possible the

confession should be as broad as the knowledge of the sin.

I am not sure all have grasped the importance of the confession. We must confess our sins to God to have forgiveness of them (1 Jn. 1:9). Without confession unto God, there is no forgiveness. We confess our faults one to another that we may be healed (Jas. 5:16). Again to be healed is to be forgiven. Compare Mt. 13:15 and Mk. 4:12. This is God's plan of restoration. We have no more right to change it than to change the command of baptism for the remission of sins. The confession also relieves one of the burden of sin. David felt the hand of God pressing upon him while he kept silent about his sin. The burden was lifted when he acknowledged his sin and confessed his transgressions (Psa. 32:1-5).

A confession of sin

lets all know where one stands. I like the story of the man with a peg leg who answered the invitation after a sermon on worldliness. He wanted all to know that he no longer danced just because he could not, but because he now felt it was wrong as well. All knew where he stood. What kind of a Christian are we if we are afraid to let all know where we stand? All of us sin (1 Jn. 1:8, 10). We need to make some kind of a confession. May we all make the ones we need to. It has long been said, "Confession is good for the soul." Truly it is.

Harold Hancock
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