

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Grasping the Benefits of Having the Son"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

WE HAVE THE BENEFIT OF FORGIVENESS

Read from Scripture what the Ultimate Father did. "For God so loved the world, He gave His one and only Son, that whoever, believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) Those who receive the Father's gift, receive all the Father has. The Bible gives us this wonderful truth, "What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir." (Galatians 4:1-7)

1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

When a person acknowledges his sin and in repentance confesses those sins before the Lord, his sins are forgiven. By virtue of the cleansing effect of

Jesus' atoning death the repentant sinner is fit for fellowship with God the Father, Jesus His Son and enabled to walk in step with the Holy Spirit. (The New American Commentary)

John instructs Christians on what to do when sin overcomes them and the benefits of confession to the Lord.

It begins with confession: "con-

fess" (is homologeō - ὁμολογέω) means to agree with another or rather to agree with God as to all the implication of the sin committed by the child of God. This includes the hatred of that sin, the Christians sense of guilt because of it and his heart desire to put that sin out of his life. (Wuest's Word Study in the Greek New Testament; Word Studies in the New

Testament) The Christian who is forgiven of a confessed sin has the spirit and heart of King David who wrote, "My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise." (Psalm 51:17)

Walter B. Knight wrote about "A man who was deeply convicted of sin and about his need for the Savior. Restlessly, he wandered one night along a country road, seeking relief for his misery. When he became tired, he sat down by some hedges. After sitting for a while, on the other side of the hedge he heard two girls in conversation. One girl had heard a sermon about forgiveness; she said it brought her so much comfort. The sermon brought out a statement that has been spoken by most of us, 'You made your bed, now lie in it.' (Knight's Treasury of 2,000 Illustrations)

The Bible records the words of the Greatest Teacher of all time, 'Your sins are forgiven... I want you to know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins.'" (Mark 2:10) I like the words written by Micah, "You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea." (Micah 7:19)

God does not hold our sins against us once we have called upon Christ for forgiveness in repentance.

MINDFUL OF THE MOMENT



There is a thought that goes something like this... "Yesterday is a cancelled check; tomorrow is a promissory note. What will you do with the treasure that is today?" It is something to consider the energy we spend regretting the past and worrying about the future. We can, however, learn from the past and plan and trust God for our future. Most importantly, we can delight in today, since this time will never return. Didn't the Creator make the world around us just for our enjoyment? If we are to relish the moment we must possess the peace of mind that only He can provide. Don't let worry and regret weigh you down; learn to experience the present moment. Delight in the serenity of His sanctuary in your house of worship this week.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Exodus 23.1-13	Leviticus 19.1-18	Leviticus 19.19-37	Leviticus 25.1-34	Leviticus 25.35-55	Numbers 27.1-11	Numbers 36.1-13
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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