

Light and Life

A Psalm of Repentance

Students of the Bible are familiar with the account of Nathan confronting David about his sin with Bathsheba and the murderous cover-up that followed (II Sam. 12). We often talk about David's reaction to Nathan when he was faced with his guilt. He did not make excuses or try to rationalize his harmful behavior. He simply confessed, "I have sinned against the Lord" (II Sam. 12:13). Because of his humble confession he was forgiven of his sin.

Great emotion was behind David's confession, as demonstrated in Psalm 51. His prayer to God was more than a simple "I'm sorry, please forgive me." In begging for mercy from God, David recognized his guilt in a profound way.

"I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight" (Ps. 51:3-4). Of course, David had sinned against Bathsheba as well in making her an adulteress. He had sinned against Uriah by sleeping with his wife and having him killed. He had sinned against many people by his corruption trying to hide his sin. But he recognized he had wronged God more than anyone else!

David's repentance went beyond feeling sorry. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Ps. 51:10). David asked God to help him change – to be restored to his previous state as "a man after God's own heart" (I Sam. 13:14)!

David recognized his need to continue to serve God; but this would not be productive until his heart was restored. "You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it... the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart... then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness" (Ps. 51:16-19). We should all look to David as an example of repentance.

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

God is on His Throne, Rev 4:11

One way Satan seeks to ensnare us is, to invade our minds with anxiety. And one way he can easily do that today is, through the rapid stream of current events that can enslave us to fear. That bondage manipulates us away from trust in God and the hope that trust is designed to strengthen.

What ultimately matters for God's people is never a headline in the 24-hour newsfeed. The nightly network news never leads with anything that cleanses our minds with joy. The pesky breaking news-pings on our phones don't remind us that the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Christ. The Twitter (X) tweets are not balanced notices of God's providential care.

If I combine all the current digital and televised dialogue into a pot of scary stew that I feed on, I'm going to get sick spiritually. I must not let what is happening under the sun (real or exaggerated) undermine my confidence in God and how that confidence must be active through obedient faith in Christ.

As Jerry Bridges said: "It is not wrong to wrestle with these issues, as long as we do it in a reverent and submissive attitude toward God. Indeed, to fail to wrestle with the issue of large-scale tragedy may indicate a lack of compassion toward others on our part. However, we must be careful not to, in our minds, take God off His throne of absolute sovereignty or put Him in the dock..." [Gerald Bridges; Jerry Bridges. *Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts* (p. 105). Kindle Edition.]

- Warren E. Berkley



ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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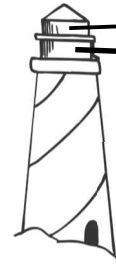
“... casting all your cares
on Him, because He
cares for you.” - 1 Pe 5:7

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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Violence & Romans 13

Leaving aside for the moment the discussion of whether a Christian can join a country's military force or police, we are left with the question of whether governments have a fundamental right to wage war, to enforce laws using force, or to execute criminals in capital cases.

The thirteenth chapter of Romans answers such questions. After telling Christians to “be subject to the governing authorities”, Paul then explained the role of governments in society. They “are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad”. “If you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain.” He “carries out God's wrath on wrongdoers”.

One must wear Pollyanna glasses to miss the point. Our broken world is full of evil people who, if left unrestrained, would wreak havoc on peace-loving people. Governments exist to prevent that (1 Ti 2:1-2).

So whether one uses the excuse of building a purebred race of people, or burning entire neighborhoods to express some grievance, or murdering, raping, or torturing thousands of people in support of some political/religious ideology, governments have every right to rain down terror on such people. It's what God has tasked them to do – and Christians should be okay with that.

- WKing

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: Fletchers, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, ADosier, ACorder

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, V Carter

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

WELCOME! – We welcome Thad Clevenger into the family at Downtown!

Remember to make Thad – and our other newcomers – feel at home!

SENTENCE SERMON – We do not know all that the future holds, but we know who holds the future.