

David's Psalm of Repentance

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Psalm 51; 2 Samuel 12:1-15

Oak Community Church (PCA)

A Reminder of Where We've Been

- Two weeks ago... *But the thing David has done displeased the Lord*^{11:27}
- God wouldn't let David get away with sin... Lord sent Nathan^{Heb4:12!}
- Nathan told a story which David got into... riled him up^{2Sam12:5}
- Nathan then declared, *you are the man*^{7!}
- David was convicted *I have sinned against the Lord*³
- Scandal of the Gospel *the Lord has put away your sin*
- Psalm 51 is a classic prayer of repentance – study it well sinner!

A Psalm of Repentance

- Repentance has been called 'forgotten doctrine of the Gospel'
- Luther 1st of 95 Theses: *when our Lord & master, Jesus Christ said, 'Repent', he willed that the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.*
- WSCQ87: *repentance unto life is a saving grace whereby a sinner out of a true sense of his sin and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.*

1) Repentance Requires Confession of Sin

- Starts¹⁻² with need for forgiveness and goes into confession³⁻⁴
- No blame shifting or excuses; own the sin³⁻⁴
 - Transgression³ = trespass or rebellion, break rules. Romans^{2:15}
 - Iniquity² = perversion or corruption. Very nature⁵ corrupt
 - Sin^{2,4} = fall short, miss the mark. Romans^{3:23}
- Confession encompasses all aspects of sin
- Take regular inventory of sin to be like Jesus^{Rm8:29}; to be holy^{1Pt1:15-16}

2) Repentance Requires Dependence Upon God's Mercy

- Confession alone won't cleanse, we must turn to God (repentance)
- God's mercy is critical for us to be able to rightly repent
- If we don't see God as merciful, we will hate Him! Psa 51:1
- If we come to God on justice alone^{Ps145:20} we'll be struck down
- Heart of the Gospel: God is merciful to sinners who repent in Jesus

3) Repentance Relies on Christ's Cleansing Blood

- Key?: How can a Holy & Just God show mercy to guilty sinners?
- David's answer: *purge me with hyssop & I shall be clean*⁷
- Hyssop - pointed to application of blood to God's people in faith
- Passover^{Ex12:22-26} - blood applied to door protected in faith
- Leper cleansing^{Lev14:1-9} - 1st sacrificed blood applied, 2nd flew away^{Ps103:12}
- Hyssop = repentance finds cleansing in blood provided by God
- OT rituals pointed to Christ: Eph^{1:7}; 1Pt^{1:18-19}; 1John^{1:7}
- David calls on God's coming mercy⁷... knew God would provide^{Gen22:8,13}
- Jeremiah's prophecy unfolds this further^{Jer23:5-6}
- We have the cross of Jesus^{Phil3:9; 2Cor5:21} no further need for hyssop!

4) Repentance Results in New Obedience by Power of Spirit

- Repentance results in New Obedience^{2,9-10}. David looks to God!
- R is a gift of God resulting in obedience^{Eph4:24; Rom6:5; 1Pt1:15-16; Col3:9-10}
- R results in broken hearts living for God^{Rom12:1-2}
- *We must worship as sinners, coming to a God of mercy through Christ's cleansing blood, offering our hearts contritely to Him and looking to His Spirit for help.*^{R.Phillips}