

Confessing Sins

By Mark Hatfield

- When ever the idea of confessing sins is mentioned, people will get a mental image of a Catholic practice where a person might go to openly admit their wrongs before a priest who will then give them a *3 step solution* for forgiveness.
- Unfortunately, the reason for this false image of confessing sins is due to lack of proper teachings and examples that are prevalent among those of us who claim to base our practices upon the biblical text.
- Let's face it; many invitations go by without someone responding to confess that they have sinned. Yet we all admit that sin is a constant setback for us.
- Tonight we want to take a short biblical journey with our destination being texts that discuss the truth behind confessing our sins.

Confessing Sins From The Beginning

- Remember Adam and Eve? They were caught in the very first sin that mankind ever committed. It is a shame that they didn't own up to the trespass of God's message, but rather tried to shift the blame to someone or something else (**Gen. 3:12-13**).
- How many times do we do this today? ("*I didn't do it*", "*my wife made me do it*", "*It was my friends that made me do it*")

Confessing Sins Throughout The Old Testament

- God has taught throughout the Bible that His people ought to acknowledge their sin and confess it, while seeking His forgiveness (**See Leviticus 5:5-6; Hosea 5:15**)
 - >God took delight in those who confessed their sins (**Lev. 26:40-42**)
 - >Prophets told the people to confess their sins (**Jeremiah 3:12-14**)
 - >Other prophets demonstrated the confession of sin (**Daniel 9:3-6, 17-20**)
 - >It is wise to confess the sin in our life (**Proverbs 28:13**)

Confessing Sins Today Under The New Covenant

- Do you remember what Israel had to bring with their confession? They had to bring an animal sacrifice. Because the Lamb of God has died for the sins of the world, after we become Christians, all we need to do is confess the error of our ways to be forgiven.
 - >If we confess our sins, we are forgiven (**I John 1:8-10**)
 - >While our real concern over sin is between us and God, it is commanded that we confess our sins to one another as well (**James 5:16**)