

Jan 9, A.M. 8:30
(Rogers' idea) -

WHEN A CHRISTIAN SINS

Psalms 51

The question people ask --- Can a christian sin?

You know the answer --- a christian can sin!

But there is no way possible that a christian can sin without suffering.

Strange verse Proverbs 30:33 "Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood."

If a christian sins, he is bound to suffer. Like night follows day.

Old preacher once said: "Sin will take you further than you want to go. Sin will keep you longer than you want to stay. And sin will cost you more than you want to pay."

There is a lot of wisdom in that and David told us about it in Psa. 51. That Psalm was written after he had sinned by committing adultery.

Some may say, "Well, he was only human." Some would say, "He was desperately wicked."

Yet the Bible speaks of David as a man after God's own heart.

David is the O. T. counterpart of a N. T. christian. We hope to meet David in heaven.

Yet David sinned horribly, hatefully, hurtfully and hellishly.

In Psa. 51 he prayed after he met Nathan the prophet, who confronted him with his sin.

I. The consequences of sin v. 1-2

There are several things that sin will do. Let us look in v. 1-2 "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin."

1. It will soil my soul.

Here's a king who bathed in his marble tub. Here's a king who wore his royal robes. Slept upon silken sheets.

Yet he feels dirty.

v. 2 --- Prays "wash me. Cleanse me."

Not only his body was defiled, but his soul. Sin had soiled his soul, and he felt dirty.

(One of the ways) you can know whether or not you're a child of God is by asking yourself this: (Do you feel dirty after you've sinned?)

Did you know that there's no pig who's ever felt dirty? Pigs don't feel dirty.

A sheep might feel dirty. A sheep will fall into the mud and want to get up and get out. That is not his nature or place of dwelling.

But a pig has never said that --- "Woe is me. I'm dirty!" He doesn't feel it.

No christian can have the Holy Spirit within him, have sin in his life, and not feel dirty.

There is the (difference) between a child of God and a child of the devil.

A child of God may sin but he hates it. A child of devil can leap into sin. He loves it. That's the difference. First thing sin does to christian is soils his soul.

2. Saturates my mind.

v. 3 "For I acknowledge my transgressions and my sin is ever before me."

Night and day, day and night, the thing David had done had so etched itself upon his consciousness that he could not get it out of his mind. He said, "my sin is ever before me."

Notice at this point the (difference) between a christian and an unbeliever.

The (unsaved) man, the unbeliever, can sin and do little thinking about his sin.

No (christian) can sin and truly forget his sin until that sin is forgiven and until that sin is cleansed. Because God the Holy Spirit will not let him forget it. "My sin is ever before me."

You may put it out of your conscious mind. But don't forget your mind has compartments --- conscious part and a subconscious part.

You may push it aside, but you have not gotten rid of it. We kick it out the front door, it runs around the house and comes in the back door. It will show up in the irritable

disposition, a sore neck, inability to digest food, inability to concentrate on the word of God, inability to pray and get through to God. The disquieting feeling is there all of the time "My sin is ever before me" --- until it is cleansed, it's there.

There are two kinds of wounds --- one is guilt and the other is sorrow.

Sorrow is a deep wound --- given time it will heal.

Guilt is a dirty wound --- it will never heal until it is cleansed. It festers and festers. David said my guilt is ever before me.

3. Stings my conscience.

v. 4 David --- "Against thee, thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight, that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest."

Here is a question for you --- Against whom did David sin?

You say --- "He sinned against Bathsheba."

He did but this is not what it says here.

You say --- "He sinned against his own body."

He did but that's not what he says here.

You say --- "He sinned against his wife."

He did but that's not what he says here.

You say --- "He sinned against his children."

You say --- "He sinned against the kingdom."

He did, but that is not what he says here.

You say --- "He sinned against Bathsheba's husband."

He did but when David got down to the bottom line, saw sin for what it is --- ("Against thee, my God, against thee and thee only have I sinned.")

He saw sin as against God!

This is the difference between an unsaved and a saved man when he sins.

The (unsaved) man is concerned with the suffering he might have to do --- What is sin going to cost him personally. The consequences of sin.

The (christian) is concerned about the fact that he has wounded his God, that he's dishonored his God.

David says "My Lord, my God - - the one that has redeemed me. The one who loves me. The one who is my shepherd, my rock, my fortress, my stay, my security. O God - - I sinned against you."

Furthermore, I committed this sin in your sight."

A man or woman slip off to some spot and commit immorality ---
But David says, "God, while you were looking, I did this sin
in your sight. You watched me commit adultery."

David realized not only had he broken God's law, he had
broken God's heart!

That is what disturbed --- My God! I sinned against thee.

He was conscience smitten --- His sin stung the conscience.

"No torture the poets name
Can match that fierce, unutterable pain
He feels who day and night, devoid of rest,
Carries his own accuser within his breast."

4. Saddened my heart.

v. (8) David prayed "Make me to hear joy and gladness, that
the bones which thou has broken may rejoice."

And look at

v. (12) "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation."

He'd not lost his salvation --- He lost the joy of it!

Let it be clear when God saved you, he didn't fix you up where you couldn't sin anymore.

He just fixed you where you couldn't sin and enjoy it anymore.

The most miserable man on earth is not an unsaved man. The most miserable man on earth is a man out of fellowship with God, a man who is a christian, who has sin unconfessed, unrepented of sin in his heart. He is far more miserable than an unsaved man, a man without Christ at all. He's lost that joy.

How would you like to take a test and find out if you've backslidden? We can take an examination and find out whether we are backslidden or not. Here is the question, just one --- Is there in your heart this moment, joy unspeakable and full of glory?

If not, you've backslidden.

You say now, hold it, wait a minute. Nobody can be happy all the time. I didn't say anything about being happy. There's a difference between happiness and joy. (Happiness) depends upon what happens and, therefore, we call it happiness --- if your happenings are good, you're happy; and if your happenings are bad, you're unhappy.

There's nothing wrong with being happy. If it makes you

happy to be happy, go ahead and be happy. But you wouldn't want to be happy all the time. That would be like having ice cream for every meal. You would get sick and tired of being happy all the time.

Bible says, "Rejoice in the Lord." What is the next word? "Always!" not sometimes, but always, "And again I say, rejoice."

Happiness is like a thermometer --- registers conditions.

Joy is like a thermostat --- controls conditions.

And when you are walking with the Lord, when God the Holy Spirit is in you, when there is no unconfessed, unrepented sin in your heart, then the joy of the Lord is there.

If the joy of the Lord is not there, it's because there's sin in your heart and life.

There is only one thing that can take the joy out of your heart. Not 2 or 3 but one --- sin.

Nothing that somebody does to you can take the joy out of your heart.

When they nailed Jesus to the cross --- It did not take his joy away.

When someone heads you off on the expressway, gets in front of you in line, steals your parking place.

What someone does to you cannot take the joy out of your life.

Someone may try to do something mean to you, they may break your heart, but cannot take your joy that comes from Jesus.

Only one thing can take joy out of your heart --- sin --- your sin. And if at this moment your heart is not filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory, I believe to some degree you are a backslider. Sin saddens --- "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation."

5. Sickens my body.

v. (8) "Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice."

David was a poet --- He is not speaking literally but poetically. His bones were not literally broken.

We would say (today) --- "I was just crushed." "I am under tremendous pressure."

We cannot say all sickness is caused by personal sin.

But --- We would be surprised to know how much of our sickness, how much of our suffering is a result of our personal sin.

Gal. 6:8 --- "He that sows to the flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption."

1 Cor. 11:30 Paul told those in the church who were irreverant at the Lord's table --- "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."

There is something about the joy of the Lord that keeps you healthy.

Prov. 17:22 "A merry heart doeth good." Like what?
"A medicine."

When joy of the Lord is there, you stand straight, you breathe deep, you digest your food, you sleep right. But when you're not right with God and you know you're not right with God, there's that pressure. How long can you take that pressure?

6. Sours my spirit.

v. 10 David says "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

That tells us he had a wrong spirit --- He had a sour

spirit --- a censorious, sour spirit.

You watch a person with that kind of spirit, he is backslidden.

Every church has those people who are critical, and the reason they are critical, and the reason they are so sour is there is sin unconfessed and unrepented of in their own heart and life.

Here is an example David had committed this horrible sin --- Nathan the prophet came to speak to David. He was David's pastor. He did not come to talk about church finances. I have a story to tell you --- "In the kingdom there's a very rich man. He has more than heart could desire: houses, lands, children, riches, everything. Filthy rich."

Then he said, he lived next door to a very poor man. This man did not have herds, flocks, etc. But he did have one pet, a little lamb, that stayed in the house and it was precious to him.

The rich man had a stranger that happened by and the rich man, rather than taking one of his own flock, went over there and took that poor man's one lamb, killed it, barbecued it and fed it to that stranger.

He asked the king: "What should be done to that man?"

David was in a rage --- He jumped from the throne and he said "The man who hath done such a thing will pay four-fold."

David, had sentenced himself in his own court.

Nathan the prophet said, ("Thou art the man,")

You all know that story --- Here is a man with a railroad tie in his own eye trying to pick a speck out of somebody else's eye.

Sure it's wrong to steal an animal. But David had killed a man.

And here he was with deeper sin in his heart, deeper in his own life, finding fault and judging somebody else. David had a sour spirit.

Watch the people in church, when they get that fault-finding spirit, sour spirit, wrong spirit; it's because there's sin in their own heart and in their own life. And may God deliver us from those kind of people.

I heard one time of a layperson in a particular church who opened the door of a broom closet, looked in, and saw there were

five brand new brooms in one broom closet. Oh, he was upset. He said, "We're not even meeting our budget. 5 brooms in one broom closet!"

Next thing you know he was at the educational director's desk. He wanted to know how to handle it. It was kicked upstairs to the pastor. And the man was irate, fuming, "What's this waste of money?"

Pastor said, well, I don't know, brother. Maybe we do a lot of sweeping. Maybe there was a sale on brooms. I don't know. But don't fall out of fellowship over it.

Later in the week the pastor was having a meal with the church treasurer and relayed this story. The church treasurer said, "Well pastor, that's easy to understand. How would you feel if you saw everything you had given to the church in the past two years tied up in five brooms?"

7. Seals my lips.

v. 14 "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness."

He has not been singing.

v. 15 "O Lord open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise."

He has not been praising.

v. 13 "Then will I teach transgressors thy ways and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

He has not been witnessing.

His praise had dried up --- His witness and testimony had withered. Soulwinning had stopped.

Sin will (intimidate you) --- your prayer life will go to zero --- the joy is gone --- the song is gone --- the testimony is gone.

Andrew Murray: There are two classes of christians: soul winners and backsliders.

We need to be honest and get right with God --- get filled with the Holy Spirit.

If you are not out there with a warm heart trying to bring souls to Jesus Christ, you are not right with God.

David said, God! Cleanse me from this bloodguiltiness and

sinners shall be converted unto you.

Lord open thou my lips. My tongue shall show forth thy praise.

II. Cleansing of sin.

Look at the record --- There are three words here dealing with sin.

1. Confidence.

v. 1 "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness." --- Loving kindness is a beautiful word.

"According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions."

David may have been a great sinner --- But he was a great repenter.

He knew something about the nature and character of God.

He knew that for a multitude of sins there were a multitude of mercies.

For great sin there was great grace. God had taught him

that he had (never stopped loving him.)

I don't know what you have done, boy, girl, young person, man, woman. Don't know what kind of sin may be in your heart and your life. But I can tell you God loves you with a tender love.

2. Confession.

v. 2-3 "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions."

Have you done that? Have you confessed your sin? David says, "Against thee and thee only have I sinned."

"Not my brother --- sister but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer."

There is one thing God will not accept for sin, and it is an alibi.

Bible says 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.

Word confess --- means to agree with, to say the same thing.

We admit our sins, confess our sins, judge our sins, take

sides against our sins with God. If we leave our sins over there and come over on God's side --- acknowledge.

Nobody wants to do that --- nobody is sinful anymore, he's just sick. Nobody is wicked, he's just weak.

If David lived in this modern time --- he might have said "Now Lord, I want you to understand that what happened to me really wasn't my fault. My wife wasn't giving me enough love and attention ---

3. Cleansing.

v. 7 "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean."

Hyssop was a little shrub with which they applied the O. T. sacrificial blood.

1 John 1:7 "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's son, cleanseth us from all sin."

Look --- purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

It does not matter what sin you've committed --- perversion, abortion, fornication, adultery, respectable sins.

Listen to David --- "Wash me and I'll be" What? "Whiter

than snow."

What a savior --- wonderful. The blood of Jesus Christ
His son cleanseth us from all --- That's a big little word.

Through the blood of Christ you can be whiter than fresh
snow --- "Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." Not just
patched up.

No matter what you have done, God says, "As far as the
east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions
from us." (Psa. 103:12)

When you understand the truth of the Gospel --- no wonder
people write songs about "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me."

(Holy Spirit) is the convictor --- He will not convict you
of sin that's already been forgiven and put under the blood.

(Holy Spirit) will convict you specifically and he will
name the sin. He is like a doctor. He'll put his finger on the
sore spot and push. He will convict you redemptively and bring
you joy and peace.

Devil is the accuser --- he leads to despair.

If you have confessed your sin and put it under the blood, you can say I know I'm forgiven.

Bertha Smith said. "He buried my sins in the deepest sea and posted a no fishing sign right there." Clean! Whiter than snow. What a savior we have.

But how (foolish) we are to go around with unconfessed, unrepented sin in our hearts.

Is there in your heart unconfessed sin christian friend? We are not talking about the size of the sin but the fact of your sin.

Is there any unconfessed sin --- act or attitude --- sin of omission --- sin of commission.

I am not talking about things that the Holy Spirit has already given you peace about. But unconfessed, unrepented sin, a relationship between you and somebody else, a habit.

In the name of Jesus, agree with God about that thing. Take sides against it --- confess it with confidence that he loves you --- There are tender mercies waiting on you.

*Mary Smith
Stone Man 93
hand punch
today
Cahmelt
2pm*