

A Lifetime and Lifestyle of Repentance

June 26, 2022

Matthew 5:4 ESV

"Blessed are those who mourn (pentheō - lament, grieve, wail, mourn), for they shall be comforted."

- Contextually, included in a list of character traits, this has always been understood to mean mourning over one's sin and sinfulness.
- We must never acquiesce nor become complacent to sin's presence in our lives, presuming upon God's forgiveness and mercy, assuming that nothing can be done because "we'll never change."
- One of the divine tensions of the Word of God is:
 - abundant and free mercy and forgiveness of our sins
 - regenerated people do not continue in nor make a practice of sin

1 John 1:9-10 ESV

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 3:6 ESV

6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

1 John 3:9 ESV

9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

"Don't let anxieties about sanctification destroy your confidence of justification."

—Charles Spurgeon

- As those who have a lifestyle of mourning over our sin, we will never give up nor give in to sin.

Psalm 51:1-2 ESV A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him.

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

Psalm 143:2 ESV A Psalm of David

2 Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

Psalm 130:3-4 ESV A Song of Ascents.

3 If you, O LORD, should mark (šāmar - to keep, retain) iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

4 But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

Psalm 103:10-13 ESV

10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

1 John 1:5-10 ESV

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Psalm 51:3 ESV *A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him.*

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

- David is speaking of a persistent and relentless consciousness of sin and haunting guilt.
- That relentless guilt plays a huge role in today's mental illness — it will drive you into madness.
- Human reasoning has to go to dark and darker places to try and escape the guilt.

Psalm 19:1-5 RSV — A Psalm of David.

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,

5 which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Romans 1:18-23 ESV

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

- Both the origin and the nature of the vile corruption, immorality and violence of the current culture and world is the rejection of, and rebellion to, one's Creator.
- Ephesians 2:3 "...we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."
- To have a Creator means that you are owned by, and will answer to, that Creator.
- Ezekiel 18:4 "Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die."
- To live in the rejection of and rebellion to your Creator is like trying to survive without oxygen or water — you are living in continuous desperation, darkness and fear.
- To try and cope with such insanity, you have to push the lies you are struggling to believe, further and deeper into absurdity, perversion and depravity.

Romans 1:24-32 ESV

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;

27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,

30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Psalm 51:4 ESV A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

- There can be no genuine repentance without knowing what we, as sinners, deserve.
- As long as we are justifying, excusing or blame shifting, and refusing to take full responsibility, we can neither be forgiven nor cleansed.

Ezekiel 18:4 “Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.”

Deuteronomy 24:16 ESV

16 Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.

Psalm 51:5 ESV A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

- This is the point of failure for many false converts, as well as Christians.
- They are incapable of believing that they don't possess the ability to be a Christian — they just need to “buckle down, try harder and perform better.”

Romans 7:18-19 ESV

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

Psalm 51:6 ESV A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him.

6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

James 1:21 ESV

21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

- implanted (emphytos) engrafted, implanted, a piece of living tissue that is transplanted surgically
- Hebrews 8:10 “...I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts...”
- We must make the decision to turn away from sin — it must be a choice and decision of our will. The regenerated spirit longs to be free from sin.
- Yet we don't have the ability to be free from sin in and of ourselves. The power to walk free from sin can only come from the Word of God implanted in our heart.
- Galatians 5:16 “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”
- We make the decision to turn from sin — the Word of God by the Holy Spirit gives the power to actually live and walk free from sin — where sin no longer dominates our thoughts, words and actions.

Isaiah 55:10-11 ESV

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

- As the rain and snow waters the earth, and the earth brings forth vegetation, so the Word of God cannot fail to bring results.
- The Word of God alive in us becomes everything we are not and does the work in us that we can't do ourselves.
- The Word of God alive in our heart becomes the patience when we need to endure; it becomes the forgiveness when we need to forgive; it becomes the love when we need to love; it becomes the joy when we have sorrow; it becomes the strength when we are weak; it becomes our contentment when we are covetousness; it becomes our purity when we would lust.

Hebrews 4:9-12 ESV

9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,

10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- The rest of God's Word, where the living Word is doing the work within that we can't do, is how we are able to cease from our own works of self-discipline and self-righteousness, which only result ultimately in our failure.
- Many Christians try to be "changed" or "different" through their own self-discipline, but never enter the rest of ceasing from their own works by the Word of God alive within them.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 ESV

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,

25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant (didōmi - give, supply, furnish) them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

- Repentance, a genuine turning from sin in obedience to God marked by a changed life — comes only by a "knowledge of the truth" — the divine rest of God's Word alive and producing in you everything you're not and everything you can't do in and of yourself.

26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

John 15:7-8 ESV

7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Psalm 51:7-10 ESV

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

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