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ARTIOS



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Confession of Sins: Yes or No?

Unchain yourself from sin consciousness and manifest true godly sorrow if you walk away from God's Word. **Jerry D. Brown**

How many times have you asked God to forgive you for some wrong you committed? How many times did you then wonder if you were truly forgiven? How many times did a wrong doing surface again, only to make you doubt your relationship with God and His son Jesus Christ? I'd like to say that nearly ALL of the worldly religious systems are designed to capture your sins and contain them with one sole purpose: To make you less than you ought to be in Christ!

The New Testament does not ask you to confess your sins. In fact, it doesn't define what your sins could be. At best, determining what sins are becomes an emotional guessing game. If you are interested in basing ALL of your actions on God's Word, then you can do something about sin consciousness.

I used to cry myself to sleep at night because of sin consciousness. I could never convince myself that I'd been forgiven. All my church teachings seemed to beat that one thing into my mind. By the time



He doesn't need to do it again for one simple reason. Jesus Christ paid the price for the sins of mankind ONCE AND FOR ALL.

I was 18, I was sure I was hell-bound and that there was no way to reverse it. I just kept crying.

Folks, its time to stop crying and to start believing what is Written. Do you have enough inner strength to take a stand and demand change? Do you have desire to fan the flicker of truth so that it erupts in full and flaming beauty? If you do, then hold on to your seats because what I am about to teach you will flatten the enemy and bolster you

beyond your wildest dreams. If you are weak and cowardly, then you may want to pack your bags now and run for cover. I've had others do just that. Why? Because they can't accept one glorious truth, and that is —

They've **BEEN** forgiven!

A long time ago, you were forgiven from every sin you could ever commit!

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake **hath forgiven you**. (Eph 4:32)

If only I had known and believed this verse. I could have stopped so many tears and so much pain. Most people don't believe this verse and won't. Where do you stand on it? Get serious now and start the changing process quickly so that you can experience the full benefits of accepting Christ into your life sooner than later.

Forgiveness is something that God did a long time ago! He

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doesn't need to do it again for one simple reason. Jesus Christ paid the price for the sins of mankind ONCE AND FOR ALL. Do you ask God for forgiveness day after day? I used to. In fact, I would ask many times a day. I acted out of fear. If you do, then you don't realize your new nature as a Christian OR you aren't a Christian yet.

Stop asking God for forgiveness every time you turn around.

If you have been forgiven, you have been forgiven. If you seek the supernatural life, which is only natural, at some point you must accept this truth. If you are shackled by fears of nonacceptance from God and Jesus Christ, read the bible more and cower less. I tell people all the time that I am not a mean person and that I mean them no harm as I speak truths like this, but I must say it again: I am not trying to be mean to you. I am trying to get through years of false doctrine. I love all of God's people including you! But that won't help me get through to you unless the words are clear, meaningful and to the point. This is a black and white issue and you need to see it as black and white.

In other words, you haven't been forgiven from ALMOST all of your sins. How repugnant that

would be. How cheap and meaningless salvation would be? Your salvation is not ALMOST complete with a little more left to do. What failure that breeds. If it wasn't good for just one person, it would fail for all. sonship Your PARTIALLY complete still missing a few signatures. Your forgiveness is completely, completely completely, complete! Let your mind squirm if you want, or accept this wholeheartedly. I got tired of living

If you are living a lousy lifestyle, you have made yourself a castaway from others.

with sin-consciousness and defeat. How about you? I fought back to a victorious Christian mindset once I learned these truth. Now, it's your turn. Fight back with the Word of God in your mind.

And ye are complete [Greek: completely, completely, completely complete] in him, which is the head of all principality and power: (Col 2:10)

Stop living below par by thinking that you are a sinner.

While you may still be sinning,

you are not a sinner in God's eyes. You are wrong and you are not living according to God's Word when you go against God's instructions, but you are not corrupt. A sinner, one not accepted by God, is filled completely corrupt. This is one who is not yet born again. When you are born again, corruption is removed and you are made new. Corruption is far different than a lousy lifestyle. No matter your lifestyle, good or bad, you cannot use it to get into God's family. You join with God only by becoming born again. If you are living a lousy lifestyle, you have made yourself a castaway from others. If you change your lifestyle, you remove a self-induced stigma.

Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him [brings him back to the truth]; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way [when the sinner comes back to the Word of God] shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. (James 5:19-20)

Stop blaming others for where you are in life; blame yourself.

While there are many forces

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against freedom and truth, the nature of life brings success to those who challenge evil and promote truth. Truthful people ALWAYS have the edge against evil. Trust me. These godly laws were built into the Garden of Eden and continue today. These laws apply to you today just like they did to Adam nearly 6,000 years ago. Your job is to start believing it and living it. I keep hearing "if it is God's Will" it will happen. The Southern part of America uses a nice word to convey my feelings on this one: HOGWASH! God doesn't control and He never will. You control your own life and use the life He gave you however you choose. Get busy doing it.

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

Stop going to man for deliverance; Go to God!

That's not to say you don't need people, especially other faithful Christians. You most certainly do! But it is to say that you don't confess your sins to a man "hoping" for forgiveness. You have Christ in you! You have the comforter – holy spirit. You don't need a personal prophet or a personal priest. How absolutely stupid and silly. No

man on this earth, that ever was and ever will be, is greater than Jesus Christ and what he did. NO MAN!

Most religions set men in positions of greatness and glory, thus employing a religious hierarchy that generally causes condemnation to run rampant throughout the masses. This is an atrocity against God's design of supernatural beings. Today, people are screaming about world-leaders who maim, harm

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and kill others. Their sins are far less than the ones religious leaders commit with their grave injustices. Why don't they just step aside, realizing that they are nothing and accepting the truth that Jesus Christ is everything. Why don't they stop sending people to an early grave and allow them to rise up into the fullness of Christ's forgiveness. He paid the FULL price a long time ago. By the time I was 18, I felt I was due for an early grave after digesting so many of the sin-conscious teachings I was fed for so many, many years. didn't want to die, but I felt so trapped and helpless. Why did this happen? Because I was taught lies by well-meaning

preachers and teachers who knew no better.

Woe unto you, scribes a n d Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. (Mat 23:23)

For all have sinned, and come short [are coming short] of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation [payment] through faith [believing] in his blood, declare his righteousness for the remission [forgiveness] of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (Rom 3:23-25)

There is <u>NO</u> New Testament example of people asking God for forgiveness every day for sins that they keep committing.

Did you know that Paul, Peter, (Continued on page 4)

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and the other Apostles NEVER taught the concept of daily asking God to forgive you of your sins? They all were thrilled to get away from that Old Testament stuff. Most people don't know this. There is no recorded doctrine and there are no recorded examples of such acts. If it was supposed to be, then don't you think God would have had it recorded for the hundreds of thousands of Gentiles who were added to the church? But what do you see today in most Christian circles? You see the masses encumbered with sin-consciousness Stop eating from the tables of lies and start gorging at the banquets of truth for once in your life.

The closest you can get to any form of New Testament, pray for forgiveness doctrine, is 1 John 1:9:

If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

This verse is set among one of the strongest teachings regarding daily adherence to God's Word. The people addressed are brand new believers or those about to become born again. The message given is to follow God's Word and if you walk away from it, come back to it to get things right. The message is that you can NEVER hurt your relationship with God because God made sure you can't tamper with the gift of holy spirit. It's incorruptible seed! If your relationship with God had anything to do with the physical body and the five senses, why then is He giving you a new one before you go to heaven?

The word "confess" is the same as the one used in Romans 10:9:

If your relationship with God had anything to do with the physical body and the five senses, why then is He giving you a new one before you go to heaven?

That if thou shalt **confess** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Rom 10:9)

This is when your righteousness comes, when you get born again. Have you ever put these two verses together and realized that they are talking about the same thing. When do you get "cleansed from all unrighteousness?" When you become born again.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Rom 10:10)

The confession referred to is the confession of the Lord Jesus. Once you confess Jesus as Lord and believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS FOREVER! All the mistakes you could ever make are completely covered FOREVER!

For by one offering <u>he</u> <u>hath perfected for ever</u> them that are sanctified. (Heb 10:14)

Forgiveness is something that God did for you in Christ. You weren't there and didn't see what Jesus did, but trust me, it was done.

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. (Eph 5:2)

And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same **sacrifices**, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one **sacrifice** for

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sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; (Heb 10:11-12)

Start today by accepting one of the greatest and now, most obscure truths ever given to man. You are forever forgiven and accepted by God and His son Jesus Christ. Stop your ritualistic chanting for forgiveness and start quoting God's Word.

Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are **forgiven**, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord **will not impute sin**. (Rom 4:7-8)

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake **hath forgiven you**. (Eph 4:32)

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (Col 2:13-14)

I write unto you, little children, <u>because your</u> sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. (1 John 2:12)

Soften up your heart so you can feel sorry for walking away from God's Word!

Godly sorrow is the New Testament method for sin vindication. Having sorrow is in

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a totally different realm than thinking you have to ask God or another man on God's behalf for heavenly forgiveness. There may be times when you should ask to be forgiven by man, especially when you do something lousy and contrary to sound Christian living. But it is far more significant when you actually have true and genuine sorrow for having committed wrong. If it is true that the works of Christ ushered in an age of forgiveness, what should you be doing when you stand against God Himself by rejecting His Word?

For one, you should be feeling sorry for what you have done. I have often seen people manifest

great sorrow for past errors when they are introduced to God and become born again. Soon after. it seems that their hearts become hardened and they no longer maintain a soft heart. A most significant teaching on this comes from 1 Corinthians 7. Earlier, I made the statement that there is no recorded New Testament teaching or examples of people running around every day seeking forgiveness. While this isn't a strange concept today, it would NEVER have been accepted in the first century church. What was accepted is the concept of real and true sorrow for having walked away from God's Word.

For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle [the epistle of 1 Corinthians] hath made you sorry, though *it were* but for a season. (2 Cor 7:8)

Notice the word "epistle?" Paul was addressing the fact that these people had refused to walk according to God's Word. He then began teaching them how to fix their errors. Walking away from God's Word is error that needs to be corrected the RIGHT WAY. He then presents the right way.

Now I rejoice, not that ye (Continued on page 6)

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were made **sorry**, but that ye **sorrowed** to repentance: for ye were made **sorry** after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. (2 Cor 7:9)

Don't get all puffed up from the fact that people were brought to a new mind on their error and finally wanted to change. That's neither the issue nor where emphasis should EVER be placed. In that they sorrowed to repentance is. Repentance means that they wanted to and did change. Their sorrow took them on a trip to the land of change.

Sorrow is a reasonably heavy thing. It is along the lines of the sorrow you experience when a loved one dies, just not quite as heavy.

For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have **sorrow** upon **sorrow**. (Phil 2:27)

Paul stated that if Epaphroditus, his brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, would have died, he would have experienced "double" sorrow. From this, you should be able to realize that real and true sorrow for walking away from God's

Word is no light matter. It is a real pain in the heart!

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. (2 Cor 7:10)

The normal course of correction from the path of error to the path of right living according to God's Word will bring wholeness

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(salvation). You will feel, act and experience wholeness again. This sorrow is not "death sorrow," it is "life sorrow," something that you should and ought to yearn for at necessary times in your life.

For behold this selfsame thing, that ye **sorrowed** after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in

this matter. (2 Cor 7:11)

Changing from error to truth is a "clearing" process. Sorrow promotes stages of deliverance, the first being "carefulness." If you are walking contrary to God's Word today and if you have never experienced these stages, then you have yet to "right" yourself God's way. Simply put, carefulness means that you don't allow any grass to grow under your feet when making this change. Do it quickly and get it over with. No delays or excuses.

"Clearing of yourself" refers to an apology. Specifically, it refers to you answering with the truth of the error. In other words, "fess up." No matter the odds, this stage will issue from true and real sorrow. If you are not experiencing genuine sorrow, you can forget about getting to this point.

"Indignation" means that you become angry with yourself. You actually can feel pain in your heart and mind for what you did. Genuine sorrow will cause this naturally.

"Vehement desire" is exactly that. You have the strongest sense of desire to right the error committed.

"Zeal" is a powerful emotion that promotes change. The need for

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changing starts to burn within you.

"Revenge," the final stage, brings the dénouement, the final resolution. This is where sorrow vindicates you. Can you image that something as forceful and with potential for such grieving able to bring about vindication? It does, but only if the sorrow is genuine.

The final statement, "In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter" could never come to pass without such true, real, and godly sorrow. In these verses, you never find reference to pleading with God for forgiveness. You see the need to admit error, apologizing to those involved, including God. But you don't see any instruction of asking for forgiveness. What vou do see is complete acceptance of the works of Christ: Forgiveness!

Begging for forgiveness doesn't right any wrong; seeking and developing godly sorrow sets life back in order!

What time is it? It's time to change. I did. For years, I begged God for forgiveness. He must have gotten pretty sick of those prayers. How thankful I

was when I found the truth of God's Word on this subject. Now its your time for changing from an old, outdated, Old Testament way of believing to the New Testament Way. You can read and re-read the bible on this subject, and as long as you are getting "to whom" correct, you won't change this old, old story. So often, people say that they just want to hear the old, old story. I wonder if they really do. This IS the old, old story, the story of forgiveness and

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salvation. While many have accepted salvation, they flatly refuse forgiveness. Why? Because they have been lied to by worldly religious leaders of this age. Because they have believed those lies and have not checked out the sources on their own.

Asking for forgiveness to make you right with God is a counterfeit.

I am sure I am saying it lightly. I wonder how God will say it when all is said and done?

Manifesting godly sorrow to bring your lifestyle back to God's Word is genuine.

Today is a new day and a new age for those who have the courage to accept it. I am not preaching anything new. I am preaching the oldest story of salvation and forgiveness in the bible. My message to you is to accept this and get on with your life. Stop condemning yourself over and over because of what someone said, did, or expected from you. Start accepting Christ INTO your lifestyle of believing, action and results. Don't keep asking God to repeat what He already did. You've been forgiven. Stop walking away from God's Word. Do experience godly sorrow when you do walk away from the Word. Now you know the stages of godly sorrow and you know what you should experience. Line up your life with the genuine and accept no other. By the way, I no longer have to cry myself to sleep. I know that I have been forgiven forever.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown