**SINNING SAINTS!?**

**TEXT: *1 John 1:8 If we say that 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 that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us*.**

**INTRO.:** A. Sin is a part of our nature! It is not eradicated at the new birth. A new nature is simply added to our old nature at the new birth. The difference is illustrated in the life of the saved Apostle Paul who said…

***Romans 7:17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.***

 B. Confession by a lost sinner alone will not save, e.g. ***Judas, Pharoah and Balaam!*** But *repentance and receiving Christ as Savior* *with confession* will save any sinner if it is sincere.

**ILLUS.:** In both the Tabernacle and the Temple the first article to greet the sinner was the **Altar of Sacrifice**. Next, was the **Laver of cleansing**. The **Altar** spoke of Christ’s sacrifice and the Priests had to first stop there and offer his and the people’s sacrifice, then and only then would he have access to the **Laver** and would stop and wash his hands and his feet, before serving the Lord each day.

**NOTE:** On the Cross the Bible carefully states that when the Savior’s side was pierced both blood and water spilled out. **Quote**: *“****The blood*** *speaks of the ground of salvation; it was that which made God’s power available in salvation.* ***The water speaks*** *of the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration. If the Holy Spirit had not come on the Day of Pentecost and begun His work of regeneration, no soul would ever have been saved. The blood of Christ does not save a soul until the Holy Spirit does His work. There came forth* ***both water and blood****, for it takes both the blood of Christ and the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit to save a soul. Christ sent the Holy Spirit to do specifically this work. This is again part of the resurrection ministry of Christ.”* - **Dr. J. Vernon McGee**

 C. We are blood washed priests before the Lord. So, before we begin our daily work as His children, we need to stop by the Laver of His Word, take a good look at ourselves and cleanse ourselves from our daily sin or sins. (The Laver was made of the mirrors of the women of Israel so the priests could see themselves clearly. The Word of God is *our mirror*…and the water of the Word is *our cleansing agent*.)

**I. MONDAY: CONFESSION OF KNOWN SINS:**

A. These Are Obvious Sins We Have Committed:

 1. In other words the Holy Spirit has already convicted us about them, and we will grieve Him

 if they are not confessed.

 2. As with all sins we should confess them *specifically*, that is, ***by naming them!***

**QUES.:** Who have you knowingly offended? Shunned? Ignored? What have you knowingly said or done that you knew was sinful? Some activity, thought or deed?

**II. TUESDAY: CONFESSION OF SINS OF IGNORANCE:**

A. These Are Sins We Have Committed Without Prior Conviction or Planning:

 1. We did not plan to do so, but the Holy Spirit has now convicted us that what we did was
 actually sinful, e.g., backbiting, gossiping, etc. without planning to do so.

 2. They may even include sins of the heart or mind that were not expressed or even thought

 about as sinful, e.g., *jealousy*, *acting unkind, ignoring someone, etc. Not meeting a need when you can.*  These sins were not planned, or done on purpose, or perhaps even thought of as sinful activity.

**III. WEDNESDAY: CONFESSION OF SECRET SINS:**

A. These Are Sins That Only You Know About:

 1. Others would be shocked if they knew about your sins of the mind or heart or those done

 in secret…

 2. These are sins that you would be ashamed to have exposed!

**NOTE:** These are most likely sins of those things you never do in public and think or hope no one ever finds out about. But the Holy Spirit convicts you of them!

**IV. THURSDAY: CONFESSION OF SINS OF COMMISSION:**

A. These Are Sins That Others May Be Aware of Too (or Not!):

 1. They may include character faults such as a judgmental attitude, pride, disrespect, prejud-

 ice, racism (not a one-way street!), and even sins of the flesh.

 2. These sins are usually obvious to you and you are convicted about, but never like to admit.

**NOTE:** They can be sins of the body, heart, eyes, mind… feelings against someone, or flagrant sinful activity you hope are never discovered…but they will be unveiled and declared at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

***Col. 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.***

**V. FRIDAY: CONFESSION OF SINS OF OMISSION:**

A. These Are Sins That Convict You Because of Things You Are Avoiding:

 1. These are often *spiritual sins of neglect*, e.g. no consistent devotions, witnessing, soul-win-

 ning, helping others, being a blessing to someone in need, encouraging others, etc.

 2. In other words, failing to do what you know to be right, but you avoid.

***2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.***

**VI. SATURDAY: CONFESSION OF SINS OF PRESUMPTION:**

A. These Are Sins Which Are Pre-planned:

***2 Peter 2:10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.***

***Psalms 19:13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.***

1. For example, you *deliberately* decide to stay home from church without a legitimate reason.

 a. You know you should be in church for Sun. Schl., Sunday night services or Wed. night.

 b. You use some plausible reason, but not a truly valid excuse.

 2. Usually, you can think of a pretty good reason NOT to do something you can and should do.

 3. You may deliberately avoid certain people, etc.

***James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.***

**CONCL.:** You may notice I have NOT included Sundays on this list.I have deliberately left that out to encourage you to pray specifically for your pastor and church needs that day and to ask the Lord how you can be a special blessing on the LORD’S DAY. Perhaps that would also be a great day for you to play “catch up” on anything you may have missed during the week in your devotional life.

 This list is obviously not all-inclusive. There may be many other kinds of sins and situations you should address in your daily devotional life. But hopefully the Holy Spirit has convicted you of at least these areas.

 Which kinds of sins have you deliberately avoided in daily confession? What sin or sins do you need to confess **NOW**?

***James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.***

***Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God…***

 ***Rom. 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned***

***You are NOT ALONE…even the greatest Christian we know of said…***

***Romans 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.***