

I DID A TERRIBLE THING

Are there skeletons in your closet? Are there things in your past that you want to keep in the past? Have you done things for which you are deeply ashamed? If we live long enough to discover the difference between right and wrong, sin comes to be a plague on every soul of every man. The only exception I am aware of is Jesus. "He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:22).

No one can honestly say, "I have never sinned!" Surely, we all have regrets. There are things in our past that we would undo if we could. I'm not interested in dredging them up, but I do want to acknowledge that the Lord has a remedy for them, and it is His blood. "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

The depth of God's forgiveness is one of the hardest lessons of life to grasp, and one of the most important. God loves us! Christ died for us! His blood can cleanse us! He is no respecter of persons. His forgiveness is accessible to all, but on His terms, not ours. If we truly believe in Him, repent of our sins, confess His name, and be baptized, His blood will cleanse, and He will add us to His church. As long as we walk in the light (are faithful to our commitment), His blood continues to provide cleansing. When we sin, if we will confess those sins and seek His forgiveness, we will find it (1 John 1:7-10).

We are all guilty, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We all have access to the same remedy, His blood, and we can share in the forgiveness He came to provide. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

God's love, mercy, and grace are sufficient to save. Three names immediately come to mind: David, Peter, and Paul.

King David, though called "a man after God's own heart," committed adultery, tried to cover it up, and then conspired to have the woman's husband murdered. Yet, when he sought forgiveness, God granted it. Of course, that did not mean that David avoided the consequences of his sin. He had to live with his mistakes, but God still forgave him.

In a moment of weakness, Peter denied his Lord three times, but when he recognized his sin, he repented in tears. Christ forgave him and did not remove the "keys of the kingdom" from his hands.

As Saul of Tarsus, Paul was an ardent persecutor of Christians. He operated under the misguided belief that he was serving God when he hunted down, arrested, and brought to trial men and women whose only crime was believing in Jesus. When he discovered the truth and turned to Christ, he also found forgiveness (1 Timothy 1:12-16).

They did a terrible thing, but God forgave them. If they could be forgiven, then so can we.

- Roger Rush, Marietta, OH (West Virginia Christian) -

Real strength is not physical, but moral and spiritual. - Old Union Reminder

News & Notes

CONFESSIONS & REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS: Daniel & Cindy Mehlmauer.

NEW CONVERT CLASS: Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 406.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. All ladies invited.

CHESTER WATER OUTAGE: City-wide, planned for **this Tuesday, Aug. 21st, 3:00-11:00 p.m.** Boil order until further notice following outage.

THURSDAY LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Discontinued until further notice due to Sis. Latisha Brown teaching in the public school system.

HELP NEEDED TO MOVE: Daniel & Cindy Mehlmauer will be moving **Monday, Aug. 27th** to Beaver Falls, PA. See Daniel for details if you are available to help.

GOSPEL MEETINGS & SING:

McKinleyville Aug. 26-30 (Mon. - Thur., 7:00 p.m.).....Different Speakers

McKinleyville Sept. 7 (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.).....Friday Night Sing

CHESTER.....Sept. 23-27 (Mon. - Thur., 7:00 p.m.)..Tim Hatfield

MEMBER VISITS: So Our Elders and Minister can get better acquainted with the members, a visit can be scheduled to meet here at the building or in your home by signing the sheet on the desk, or arrange an appointment by talking to Rico. Otherwise, an impromptu visit may be made.

PANTRY: Peas, lima beans & beets.

REQUEST FOR PRAYER: Jenny Rhodes (upcoming knee surgery).

SICK & SHUT-IN: *Weirton Medical Center:* Ernie Robinson. *At Home:* Charlie Delong, Bill & Carol Stillwell, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless. **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Jane Bowers (Room 19). **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **AUBURN NURSING HOME, SALEM, OH:** Jim Mick. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl. **IN CALIFORNIA:** Cindy Moore (Pat Allison's cousin).

SEVEN MINDS OF CHRISTIANITY

1. **Mind your tongue.** Never allow it to speak hasty, cruel, untruthful or wicked words. It was made for something better.
2. **Mind your eyes.** Do not permit them to look on obscene pictures or things which suggest evil. There are many sights which would be inspirational.
3. **Mind your ears.** They should never listen to wicked speeches, improper songs, or unholy words. They were made for hearing harmonies of Truth and the sweet voice of God.
4. **Mind your lips.** Never let anything befoul them, nor strong drink pass between them. They are for better purposes.
5. **Mind your hands.** They should never steal or fight, or be used to write down evil thoughts. Their best use is to lift up the fallen, and to hand out blessings to the needy.
6. **Mind your feet.** They are not to walk in the paths of sin, nor in any other steps of Satan. They are to carry you on errands of mercy and labors of love.
7. **Mind your heart.** The love of sin is to be kept out of it, and Satan is not to have any room in it. It is to be consecrated to Jesus, and He is to make it His home.

- Author Unknown -