



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Reflections from Scripture on the two types of sinners, not based on what they have done, but based on their response and attitude toward God and their sin.

Scripture

The Bible speaks of two types of sinners. Here are four examples of the first kind:

Isaiah 3:8-9 Jerusalem staggers, Judah is falling; their words and deeds are against the LORD, defying his glorious presence. The look on their faces testifies against them; they parade their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to them! They have brought disaster upon themselves.

Isaiah 5:20-24 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drinks, who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent. Therefore, as tongues of fire lick up straw and as dry grass sinks down in the flames, so their roots will decay and their flowers blow away like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD Almighty and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Genesis 6:5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Romans 1:18-23 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Here are some examples of the second kind of sinner:

Psalm 32:1-5

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 51:1-4

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!

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

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.

Do you see the difference between those people and David? David had a great view of God, His mercy, His love, His compassion, and His holiness. He also had a right view of his own sin; he realized that it was a terrible violation of God's holiness.

David did not minimize his sins like Saul had minimized his (1 Samuel 15). He confessed and counted on God's great mercy, love, and compassion.

1 Samuel 16:14 Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul.

Psalms 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

When the prophet Samuel confronted Saul, Saul responded by making excuses and trying to shift the blame. When the prophet Nathan confronted David, he made no excuses. He repented and confessed, and the Lord forgave him. He was allowed to keep his kingdom. David still had other consequences to face, but he had the joy of forgiven sins.

What type of sinner are you?

Song

Psalms 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

I Want a Principle Within

(I know you don't know this Charles Wesley hymn, but has a power message, make it a prayer.)

I want a principle within
of watchful, godly fear,
a sensibility of sin,
a pain to feel it near.
I want the first approach to feel
of pride or wrong desire,
to catch the wandering of my will,
and quench the kindling fire.

From thee that I no more may stray,
no more thy goodness grieve,
grant me the filial awe, I pray,
the tender conscience give.
Quick as the apple of an eye,
O God, my conscience make;
awake my soul when sin is nigh,
and keep it still awake.

Almighty God of truth and love,
to me thy power impart;
the mountain from my soul remove,
the hardness from my heart.
O may the least omission pain
my reawakened soul,
and drive me to that blood again,
which makes the wounded whole.

Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

“Confession and Petition”

A prayer from *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers*

Holy Lord, I have sinned times without number,
and been guilty of pride and unbelief,
of failure to find your mind in your Word,
of neglect to seek you in my daily life.
My transgressions and short-comings
present me with a list of accusations,
But I bless you that they will not stand against me,
for all have been laid on Christ;
Go on to subdue my corruptions,
and grant me grace to live above them.
Let not the passions of the flesh nor lustings
of the mind bring my spirit into subjection,
but do you rule over me in liberty and power.
I thank you that many of my prayers
have been refused —
I have asked amiss and do not have,
I have prayed from lusts and been rejected,
I have longed for Egypt and been given a wilderness.
Go on with your patient work,
answering ‘no’ to my wrongful prayers,
and fitting me to accept it.
Purge me from every false desire,
every base aspiration,
everything contrary to your rule.
I thank you for your wisdom and your love,
for all the acts of discipline to which I am subject,
for sometimes putting me into the furnace
to refine my gold and remove my dross.
No trial is so hard to bear as a sense of sin.
If you should give me choice to live
in pleasure and keep my sins,
or to have them burnt away with trial,
give me sanctified affliction.
Deliver me from every evil habit,
every accretion of former sins,
everything that dims the brightness
of your grace in me,
everything that prevents me taking delight in you.
Then I shall bless you, God of Jeshurun,
for helping me to be upright.