

Belief Blocker #2, Unconfessed Sin

Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-5

Pew Bible Page 1119

“And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.”

—Mark 1:4-5

“Never let them see you sweat”

vs.

Be authentic and vulnerable, confess your sins and find forgiveness.

Great revivals and personal revivals come when we get honest with God and ourselves.

A Senior at Asbury College, Feb. 3-11, 1970 _____

Isaiah 6:5 _____

Peter’s Call, Luke 5:8-11 _____

Crowd at Pentecost, Acts 2:38 _____

Our Journey to Belief runs right through confession of sin.

Belief Blocker #1, Worldliness,

Belief Blocker #2, Unconfessed Sin

Not unrealized sin, but unconfessed sin.

James 4:17, Romans 1:18, 21

1. Repentance is the primary preparation

“A voice of one calling: “In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.”

—Isaiah 40:3

God prepared for the ministry of His Son by sending a prophet, John the Baptist, calling people to repentance.

2. Repentance is Confessing Sin

“And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.”

—Mark 1:4-5

Hidden sin? Be sure your sin will find you out.

Sins can only be removed if they are confessed and covered by the Blood of Christ.

“These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” —Revelations 7:14

3. Repentance includes Turning from Sin.

“John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.” —Luke 3:7-8a

Matthew (3:7) records that John cried out to the Pharisees and Sadducees. Luke records, “to the crowds.” The discussion may have begun with the religious leaders, but **we all have a little Pharisee in us. We all have some hypocrisy in us.**

The crowd asked, (Luke 3:10-14), “What should we do then?”

John answered

The man with two tunics should _____

Tax collectors should _____

Soldiers, don’t _____

Put on the new self (Ephesians 4:24-32)

Put off falsehood and speak (25) _____

He who has been stealing must (28) _____

Do not let unwholesome talk come out, but only (29) _____

Get rid of bitterness, rage, slander, malice but be (31-32) _____

Repentance is not self-help. Repentance is not the human potential movement.

4. Repentance is our response to God’s Love

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.” —Isaiah 40:1-2

Our actions do not bring God’s love. Our actions prepare us to receive God’s love.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” —Romans 5:8

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” —2 Corinthians 5:21