

THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES EVANGELIST / PASTOR DAVID W. LANKFORD

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Volume: 17 Issue 11

We want to take our Scripture text today from Psalms 51:1-5,"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when without judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." For many people in today's world, the importance of sin as a concept is gradually eroding away. Some dismiss any belief in sin as a quaint notion left over from a Bygone era or generation. There are many pulpiteers today who will not even use the word sin, wickedness, iniquity, judgment, and a plethora of other words for fear of offending anyone. Others however, accept the reality of sin, but deny or ignore their own sins. Still others use sin as an opportunity for entertainment, delighting in the exposure of others caught in sin, or even parading their own moral failures before the public crowd. It is hard to imagine, but no we longer debate same sex marriage but we have wholly embraced same sex marriage without any guilt or condemnation whatsoever. More and more people are living together and shacking up while refusing to get married. Fornication has become rampant and so has adultery. We are living in a day when drugs are being

DAVID AND HIS TERRIBLE SINS

voted upon and made legal for public as well as private use without any conviction whatsoever. There is a total loss of respect for law enforcement, for our judicial system, and for the Word of the living God. Our young people are no longer afforded the opportunity to pray at public events and God forbid if you stand and cry aloud against the sins of this nation. Those who preach the Word of God uncompromisingly are castigated and treated as buffoons, outdated as some old-fashioned relic which is no longer relevant to this generation. I am here to declare otherwise. The Word of God is more relevant than ever before according to the sins of this nation. The preaching of the Word of God and proclaiming righteousness detours sin at every turn. Because men are cowardly in spirit they are afraid to preach the purity of God's most holy Word. We read in Isaiah 58:1,"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." When men began to preach the Word of God the power of His Word will hammer the rocks of sin and burn out the dross that is permeating and pervading this generation. The prophet said in Jeremiah 23:29,"Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" For the psalmist David, there was ultimately only one way to deal with sin: face it, confess it, and be forgiven of it! Ministers no longer today preach a confessional repentance regarding sin. The apostle

November 2017

Paul declared in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." The fact that everyone was shapen, conceived, and formed in iniquity demands that we repent of our sins. Regretfully, it is hard to find Holy Ghost spirit filled preachers that will preach uncompromisingly against the sins of this nation and the sins that fill people's lives. There is a grave penalty for sin for the apostle Paul declared in Romans 6:23,"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Don't ever think that the wages of sin will allow you to prosper and be blessed: that is the personification of deceit and deception. God does not bless sin therefore God cannot bless America as He wills. God can only bless the righteous, the redeemed, and only those who are living a life of continual repentance and confession concerning their sins. There is never a time when I get on my knees to pray and talk to my heavenly Father that I don't ask Him to forgive me of any sin that I may have committed which would grieve the Holy Ghost and hinder my walk with Him. We witness in our Scripture text that David in his prayer expressed utter and total brokenness. What exactly was the sin which David had committed? The Bible tells us plainly that he committed adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite, and then when she became pregnant David tried in vain to cover his sin, eventually engineering and preparing away for Uriah's death. I want you to try and fathom that David was a man

after God's own heart, yet sin and the power of sin struck him so powerfully it distorted and twisted everything about his life and even his way of thinking. Can you imagine a man being after God's own heart, yet he willingly plotted to murder a loyal soldier in his army? He even got Uriah drunk and sent him home hoping he would sleep with his wife so as to cover his sin. That is one of the perils of sin: one sin demands another sin to cover up the previous sin. Once that happens we have fallen completely out of relationship with Christ and ultimately end up in a backslidden condition. Once a man is born again and though he sins, he does not return to being a sinner but rather he becomes a backslider. A person can only be born again once: if they return to a life of sin then are they living as a backslider which makes them twice dead in the spirit. We fully understand this doctrinal truth according to Jude: 12, "These are spots in your feast of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots." The question is how does a man become twice dead in his relationship with Jesus Christ? The answer is very simple when you look at Ephesians2:1,"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." Before a man is born again he is dead in his trespasses and in his sins. Following the new birth he becomes alive through the new birth and then becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus according to 2nd Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Once a man is born again, he becomes a new creature and thereby risen from his death of sin and

trespasses. However, if that person returns back to sin, they become dead again the second time and will be plucked up by the roots in the Day of Judgment. Once David was indicted by the prophet Nathan, he was not evading his responsibility for his sexual immorality and murder, but he recognized that ultimately sin is an offense against a holy and righteous God. This is what we deem as Holy Ghost conviction that brings a man's consciousness to a place of divine awareness that he has offended the only true and living God because of his sin. It is God's standard that has been violated and not man's! Without a doubt other people are hurt by our sins just as Uriah was murdered and the child that was conceived died following its birth. I never fail to be amazed at the contiguous carnage that sin ultimately produces when men abandon their faith and drift away from God. While sinners may owe an apology and restitution to people, they owe contrite confession and repentance to God. Christ alone is able to forgive us of our sins. The apostle John tells us in 1st 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." Let me be very plain and pointed here, unconfessed sin separates man from God eternally. Admittedly, there is a parenthetical time that God will allow for repentance for those who have sinned: but if repentance is not soon made then the spirit of God will no longer dwell with that person. We understand this to be doctrinally correct according to Revelation 2:21,"And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds." Again, the emphasis is on repenting. We know that the spirit of God left Samson according to Judges 16:20,"And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him." We know that Jehovah will not also contend with men according to Genesis 6:3,

"And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh." Even though men are born again they continue to retain their free will and decision making capabilities. We understand this doctrinal truth according to 2nd Timothy 4:9-10, "Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world and is departed unto

Thessalonica." No one knows for certain what attracted Demas and caused him to turn back but something did? Sin is a powerful attraction and don't ever forget that. God helped David, and God desires to help you. The Bible is realistic, and there are many accounts in the bible demonstrating that people are not super Saints, but shows how many fell from grace. I know my pundits will say once saved always saved and you cannot lose your salvation once you are saved. However the Bible is very clear doctrinally that one can fall from grace according to Hebrews 12:15, "Looking diligently lest any man fail (or fall) of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and there by many be defiled." What sins do you need to confess in order to find His forgiveness and restoration? Thank God the Holy Ghost stands ready and willing to lead each of us to repentance. The apostle Paul declared in Romans 2:4,"Not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Two of the most beautiful words Jehovah ever gave mankind was repentance and redemption. As always, we thank you so very much for your love and support for the ministry. May the Lord God of Abraham forever order your steps in His most holy Word!

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford