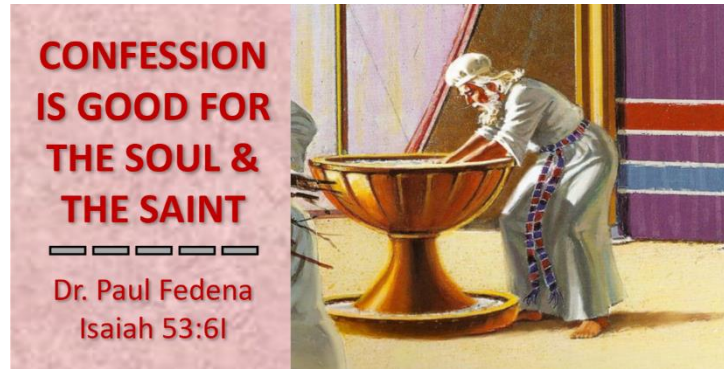


CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL & THE SAINT



TEXT: *Isaiah 53:61 - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

INTRO.: A. In the O.T. the priest had to stop at the Laver before beginning his service of sacrifice for the day. There he washed his hands and feet symbolizing cleansing from the defilement of the last 24 hours. This was symbolic of confession of sins. So each day we need to stop at the Laver of God's Word to confess our sins of the past 24 hours.

NOTE:

I do so daily (and sadly). I begin my prayer time with confessing my sins:

- Mon.: Known Sins;
- Tues.: Unknown or Accidental Sins;
- Wed.: Secret Sins;
- Thurs.: Sins of Commission;
- Fri.: Sins of Omission;
- Sat. Presumptuous Sins, (i.e. deliberate or planned sins);
- Sun.: Any & All Sins.

B. The day would begin early for the priests. They would have the people bring their sin offerings of lambs or other animals. They would then have the person place their hands on the animal symbolically transferring their sins to it and then

hand the individual a knife to slit the throat of the beast and watch the innocent victim bleed out for the person's sins. The priest would then catch some of the blood to sprinkle on the altar and butcher the animal and spread its parts on that same altar and watch it be consumed in the flames.

NOTE: Aren't you glad you didn't live back then? Aren't you happy that you didn't have to bring an animal with you to church? Aren't you thrilled that you didn't have to kill a little lamb, a ram, an oxen, a pigeon or another animal and have its blood spurt all over you? Aren't you glad for our High Priest, our Intercessor, and our Sacrifice and Passover Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ Who did it all for us and in our place?!

1 Cor 5:7b For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

NOTE: No priest in the OT was both sacrificer and sacrifice. The OT priest was not offeror and offered. The OT priest worked with a knife and blood all day long. But not his own blood.

But our Priest was both Sacrificer and Sacrifice! And He shed His own sinless blood! And His one sacrifice covered all our sins: past, present and future! AMEN!

I. CHRIST IS OUR SACRIFICIAL LAMB: (His Past)

John 1:29-36 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. Again the

next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

II. CHRIST IS OUR HIGH PRIEST: (His Present)

A. He is Our Intercessor:

NOTE: We often speak of the past ministry of Christ. But we need to think regularly of His present and ongoing ministry as our High Priest and Intercessor.

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

III. CHRIST IS OUR COMING KING OF KINGS: (His Future)

Rev 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Rev. 5:11-13 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them,

heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

CONCL.: Yes, CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL AND FOR THE SAINT! It is our way of staying clean before Him and before others as well.