

Black paper
left in hall
room

Confession

I. John 1:9

Zanvil

Wm. W. T. Hall
Funeral from
1st Cong. Ch. 2³⁰

You would be surprised to know how few sermons are preached on confession of our sins - when I felt prompted to use this subject I began to look through books of sermons by various ministers that I might get some help but did not find one sermon on it.

I began to examine my own bowel - and by the way I am supposed to have preached 528 sermons since I have been in Columbus - besides 264 prayer meeting talks - but in all these I have not found one on confession. (I have used this text - "Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another for the effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much.") but the emphasis there was on prayer - effectual prayer.

I did run across one little talk on Confession in a little magazine. In all of this we must confess that confession is one of the most important things in life. Without it there is no forgiveness.

I am not talking to deny about the Confessional in the Roman Catholic church - I do not know much about that and it is not wise for you to talk much about things you are not acquainted with.

In our church - when we talk about
honest confession we usually think of
it as something we do before con-
version. However, important as that
is, confession covers a broader field
than that and is applicable to any
person who sins whether that sin
be committed before or after con-
version - and don't you ever believe
that you can not sin after you
are converted. (at Lord's Supper)

Def. Confession is to own and lay open
our sins and offences to God first and
also to persons we have sinned a-
gainst.

To confess our sins is the absolutely
necessary prelude to God's forgiveness
of our sins. A minister tells this ex-
perience which he had - He and his
family drove over bad country roads
to get to town - reaching the pavement
of the town they were gliding along
faster than the speed limit - a traffic
officer ordered them up to the curb and
said, "Do you know how fast you were
driving?" "I'll confess officer that I
do not as I was not watching my
speedometer. I might have easily been
going beyond your speed limit" with
twinkle in his eye the officer looked
at other members of the family and
said - "Well I caution you to be more
careful next time - drive on!"

An honest confession then had proved
the means of pardon -

First we admit our sins
Second - we forsake them.
Third - we confess -

God-For-gives -

Confession is required of us by our great God -

"and it shall be, when Israel shall be guilty in one of these things that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing and he shall bring his trespass offering unto the Lord for his sin which he hath sinned," Lev. 5:5.

God will regard your confession -

"He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right and it profited me not; He will deliver his soul from going into the pit and his life shall see the light." He that cover his sins shall not prosper; But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Prov. 28:13. (but gas)

This attitude of God is proven by the attitude of earthly parents - God is more genuine love than we are - yet observe an earthly parent - The child comes in and falls on parents shoulder and weeps and confesses - The normal parent will melt to tears and will forgive them and there - there are parents, who in such cases, will say - "well its time you were coming around and to teach you, so obey come out in the back yard and I will put stripes on you from head to foot."

A parent that would be that heartless ought to have pepper and salt put between his bed sheets and tied there and made to stay there.

That brings to my mind another thing confession amongst persons is a true way matter - the parent that sins against his child should lay down his "I am always right and you are always wrong attitude" and confess to the child that he has done wrong. The person who thinks that he can do wrong and then never step down from his false dignity and confess his sin ought to be carried out to the old proverbial peach tree and whipped if he is 90 years old -

Confession must come with it a willingness to submit to the deserved punishment if God sees fit to inflict it -

"If they shall confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers - - and then accept by the punishment of their iniquity - then will I remember my covenant"

Prody sorrow is necessary to true confession - "I will declare my iniquity I will be sorry for my sin" +

Confession will include restitution - "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar and there remembered what thy brother hath ought against thee leave there thy gift before the altar and go thy way - first be reconciled to thy brother then come and offer thy gift" - Mat 5:23-24

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people will try to do lots of favors to one
and are suited against and let that
take the place of confession but it
won't do it



Please ponder this list of questions
long and carefully:

Do I say one thing with my lips,
but deep in my heart think another?

Can I forget my prejudices?

Am I sincere with all I meet—
("Sincere" means, without camou-
flage)

Do I talk unduly about my neigh-
bor to his back?

Does money possess me, or do I
possess the money? Do I tithe?

How long do I nurse a grouch?

Is contempt of others one of my
sins?

How do I feel when others justly
criticize me?

Is everyone else wrong but me?

Do I have a scape-goat for all my
wrong doings?

Am I inflexible—hard to influence?
Why?

Is there anyone I do not care to
meet?

Am I making life hard for anyone?

Is fault-finding one of my besetting
sins?

Do I try to put things over by being
cross?

Am I faithful to my church? What
is my present contribution to its spir-
itual welfare?

Have I made a list of my sins, and
faced them honestly before God, ask-
ing Him to reveal my heart to me?
If not, why not?

Is my all on the altar?