

## Pastor's Post #5

In the last "Pastor's Post", I wrote about prayer and gave different examples of prayer. One of the first examples that I offered was prayer confessing our sin to God and beseeching Him for forgiveness. In writing about prayer, why did I immediately and initially give an example of a prayer confessing our sin? Because we are sinners who sin daily and are in need of forgiveness.

Psalm 51 verse 5 reads: "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." Everyone of us is born with original sin. We are sinners all the way back to our conception, as Psalm 51:5 states so clearly.

And, as Luther stated it so well in the Catechism under "The Fifth Petition" of the Lord's Prayer: "We daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment." Yes, day by day there are my sins of thoughts, words, and deeds. The same applies to you. 1st John 1:8 asserts: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." If you and I say that we have no sin, we are guilty of self-deception. Jesus called the Word of God the "truth" when He prayed to His Heavenly Father, "Your Word is truth." (John 17:"17). So, if we say that we have no sin, the truth, the truth of God's Word, is not in us. Jesus also called Himself the "truth". In addition, if we say that we have no sin, the truth, Jesus Christ Himself, is not in us. You and I are sinners who were born in sin and sin daily in what we think, in what we say, and in what we do.

Therefore, we confess our sins to our God. It is God's will that you and I confess our sins to Him. "I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," Psalm 32 declares. (Psalm 32:5)

Psalm 32 verse 5 does not conclude with those words. The Psalmist was inspired by the Holy Spirit to add, "and you forgave the iniquity of my sin." God sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to fulfill the Law to your credit and mine. And God sent His Son to shed His blood and die upon a cross as the atoning sacrifice for our sin. Our sins are completely paid for by Christ and His obedient life and sacrificial death. Because of Jesus Christ and His work for our salvation, you and I have forgiveness; the Lord forgives the iniquity of our sin.

The Lord bless you in your faith. The Lord bless you in your health during this COVID19 Pandemic. The Lord bless and keep you and your family.

Pastor Lindsay Watkins