

Godly Sorrow

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In Paul's second epistle to the Corinthian believers, he revealed unto them two kinds of sorrow: **godly sorrow**, and **the sorrow of the world**. "For **godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation** not to be repented of: but **the sorrow of the world worketh death**" (2 COR. 7:10).

Before becoming a Christian, "**godly sorrow**," in every instance, precedes repentance, just as "**repentance**" precedes salvation. There can be no repentance without a "**godly sorrow**" for sins committed. Only **believing** the Word of God produces "**godly sorrow**."

The Word of God declares that mankind is **guilty** of "evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, lying, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, pride, and foolishness," of which all that do them "...**shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone**" (REV. 21:8).

Do you remember a time when you had a "**broken heart**" before God because of **your** sins? God **commands** it, and without **repenting** to God with "**godly sorrow**" for your sins, you **WILL** perish.

The **self-righteous** religious leaders asked Jesus' disciples, "...**Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and LEARN what that meaneth, I will have MERCY, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance**" (MATTHEW 9:11-13).

When someone asks for "**mercy**," they usually **plead** for it. Have you ever **pleaded** for God's mercy? If you did, it was because you **believed** that **without it**, you would go to **HELL** where **ALL unbelievers** go.

The sacrifices of God are not "**good works**," but "...**a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart**" (PSALM 51:17). Not as Cain, who offered the fruit of his **own** labor, but to be in obedience to what God

requires, which is a **repentant heart** that is filled with "**godly sorrow**" for being a sinner.

Read about others who **sorrowed**:

The Publican: "And the publican, **standing afar off**, would not **lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven**, but **smote upon his breast**, saying, **God be merciful to me a sinner**" (LUKE 18:13).

The Jews on the day of Pentecost: "Now when they heard this, **they were pricked in their heart**, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, **Men and brethren, what shall we do**" (ACTS 2:37-41)?

The Jailer: "Then he called for a light, and **sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down** before Paul and Silas, And **brought them out**, and said, **Sirs, what must I do to be saved?** And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house**" (ACTS 16:29-31).

The People at the Baptism of John: "Then went out to him [JOHN] **Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan**, and were baptized of him in Jordan, **CONFESSING THEIR SINS**.

But when he saw many of **the Pharisees and Sadducees** come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, **WHO HATH WARNED YOU to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for REPENTANCE**" (MATTHEW 3:5-8).

...and least of all, **ME**: While on my way to work, and searching my car radio for some good music, I heard these words: "But **the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, AND ALL LIARS**, shall have their part in **the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone**: which is the second death" (REV. 21:8). In the parking lot, I bowed my head on my steering wheel and prayed, "**God, I'm sorry. Please save me**." And by faith, He did!

What about you? You've heard the "**warning**" in these words. Will you be as the people who came to John's baptism, **confessing their sins**? Or will you be as the religious "**self-righteous**" leaders who refused to **heed** God's warning? "I said therefore unto you, **that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins**" (JOHN 8:24).

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