

## DAVIDS PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

**TEXT:Psalm 6:1-10**

This is the first of the seven Psalms on repentance, the others being **32, 38, 51, 102, 130 and 143.**

Most believe that it belongs to the period between David's sin with Bathsheba and Absalom's rebellion. Evidently, David has just come through an illness which threatened his very life, which he regarded as an evidence of God's displeasure, and over which his enemies rejoiced. But he did what every child of God should do in time of trouble: he prayed and his prayer was answered. The subject of the Psalm is, therefore: From Trouble through Prayer to Triumph. Verses 1-7 set forth the Trouble; and Verses 8-10 reflect the Triumph.

Someone has said, "The chief reason why the Psalms are so full of praise is because they are so full of prayers." David not only knew how to pray, but also what to pray for. Here David asks for mercy instead of God's wrath, for life instead of death. And again in this Psalm, like those which precede it, we find the contrast between the godly and the ungodly. In the Psalm we see:

**The Sense of Divine Displeasure.**

**The Scourge of Dangerous Illness. The Scoffs of Delighted Foes.**

## I. THE APPEAL

(v. 1-5).

### A. DAVID'S PAST

Five times in these verses we find the expression "**O Lord.**" This shows the intensesness of David's prayer. He is not simply mouthing words; he is pouring his heart out to God. The fact is, David's sins have found him out; the night of repentance has overtaken him. And when this happens, the sinner comes face to face with God's Displeasure Against Sin.

We all will admit that God hates sin, but it is difficult to realize just how much until He begins to deal with it in our own lives. Keep in mind that "**the pleasures of sin are but for a season.**" Sin brings temporary pleasure but eternal punish-ment. Sin takes all the joy out of life and makes us "curse the day that we were born."

Men commit sins and pass on as if they would never have to face them again. But the day comes when they all live again. **Ecc. 3:15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.** states: "God requireth that which is past." There will come a day when conscience throws open the doors of memory and a crowd of sins rushes out. Little sins, old sins, quiet sins, forgotten sins.

This is exactly what has happened to David. He realizes that the sins of the past are not gone at last. And with this fact comes also the realization that God is sore displeased. Thus

### **A. DAVID'S PAST**

**B. DAVID'S PLEA "O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. Have mercy upon me, O Lord ... "**

Notice that David does not pray for the removal of God's chastisement. He knew that he deserved what he was getting. Thus he does not ask for justice, but mercy. **Keep in mind that**

**God chastens for two reasons: for Punishment or for Purification. It can be in Condemnation, and it can be for Correction.**

**We not only see God's Dis-pleasure Against Sin, but also David's Desire for Strength**

**(v. 2).** A real consciousness of our own weakness is the first step toward receiving Divine strength. Jesus reminded His followers in **John 15:5, "Without me ye can do nothing." And Paul states in Phil. 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."**

Not only was David weak physically because of illness, but he also was weak spiritually because of sinfulness. Sin does to the soul what disease does to the body. And a weak Christian is a

helpless Christian. Sin saps our spiritual strength, and a sick person needs help. The Great Physician waits to prescribe the correct remedy for every spiritual illness.

### **I. THE APPEAL**

### **II. THE ANGUISH (v. 6, 7).**

**A. WEARINESS. 6.** "I am weary with my groaning."

**B. WEEPING. 6.** "All the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears."

**C. WASTING. 7.** "Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies."

These verses reveal David's attitude toward sin in his life. It brought sorrow to his heart and tears to his eyes. Some folk cry easier than others; but if we cannot weep, surely we can grieve over sin. There can be sorrow where there are no tears. It is not so much the weeping eye God respects as the broken heart. It's not the duration but the sincerity of our sorrow that counts.

### **I. THE APPEAL**

### **II. THE ANGUISH**

### **III. THE ANSWER (v. 8-10).**

Mark the sudden change here. David's burdens are lifted and blessings are assured. In these verses we see three important facts.

## **A. THE PEOPLE ARE ADMONISHED.**

**Ps 6:8 ¶ Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.**

When the Lord pardons, sinners will flee. A backslidden Christian can fellowship with sinners, but a spirit-filled one cannot. When one enjoys the fellowship of the Lord, he cannot tolerate the company of the wicked. Thus, we are not only known by the company we keep but also by the company we avoid.

The wicked have power over us as long as sin has hold of us. But if we would do more praying to our Heavenly Father, we would have less trouble with our earthly foes. If God can par-don our sins, He can protect us from our enemies.

## **A. THE PEOPLE ARE ADMONISHED.**

## **B. THE PRAYER IS ACCEPTED.**

**Ps 6:9 The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.**

Three times David expresses his confidence of his prayers being heard and received. Notice that past answers become the ground for present assurance.

Not only "He hath," but also "He will." Beyond your present gloom there can be glory. Believe it!

**A. THE PEOPLE ARE ADMONISHED.**

**B. THE PRAYER IS ACCEPTED.**

**C. THE PERSECUTORS ARE ASHAMED.**

**Ps 6:10 Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly.**

The world may make fun of you, it may persecute you, and say all manner of evil about you; but when the Lord begins to work in and through your life, all mouths will be stopped.

There is not only pardon for the repentant, but also shame for the wicked.

I would like to close with this reminder. Jesus said, **(Matt. 5:4). "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted"** When is the last time that you wept over sin in your life? Many times dry eyes indicate depraved hearts. Have you sinned? If so, have you prayed?

**I John 1 :9** was written to the sinning saint. **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."** David knew the reality of this promise, because he wrote in **Ps. 32 :1,** **"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."** Do you know this blessedness? Beyond your trouble there can be triumph.

