

**Subject: *Confessing and Forsaking All Sins***

**Scripture: *Proverbs 28:13***

When we come to the cross we think about Christ and we think about our sins. The gospel is that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. The time of Communion should always be a time when we remember how Jesus died and why He died. He died to save us from our sins. What should be our response to His sacrifice on the cross for our sins? We should confess and forsake our sins so that we can receive mercy.

***1 John 1:9*** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Notice that we must confess our own sins, the sins we have done. It's always easier to confess someone else's sins, but that never does any good. To confess means to agree with God that we have sinned, to agree that our sin is wrong, to agree that our sin violates His will, and to agree that our sin has offended Him. To confess our sin means to agree with God that we are guilty and our sin deserves God's punishment.

To forsake means to turn away from it and stop doing it. To forsake means we will stop making excuses for it. To confess and forsake our sins is what it means to repent of our sins.

***Luke 24:46-47*** <sup>46</sup> *And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:* <sup>47</sup> *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

*“At Calvary”*

*Year I spent in vanity and pride, caring not my Lord was crucified, knowing not it was for me He died at Calvary.*

*Mercy there was great and grace was free; pardon there was multiplied to me; there my burdened soul found liberty, at Calvary.*

*My God's Word at last my sin I learned; Then I trembled at the law I'd spurned, Till my guilty soul imploring turned to Calvary.*

The Bible describes different kinds of sins:

- Sins of ignorance and sins of presumption (willful sins)
- Sins of action and sins of attitude
- Sins of the flesh and sins of the spirit
- Sins of commission and sins of omission

A little boy tried to explain the difference between sins of commission and sins of omission: “A sin of commission is something we do that we don't mean to do. A sin of omission is something we want to do, but never get around to it.”

***James 4:17*** *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

Failing to do what we ought to do is often unconfessed and unrepented of sin in our lives.

A. Sins of omission are definite sins

When Moses challenged the tribes of Israel to go to war with their brothers, he said, *But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out (Numbers 32:23)*. Failure to do their part in battle would be a terrible sin.

When the people of God asked Samuel to pray for the nation, he replied, *God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you (1 Sam. 12:23)*. It would be a sin of not praying.

When Jesus came to a barren fig tree (a symbol of the Jewish nation), He put a curse on it because it bore no fruit. It was a sin of not bearing fruit.

Jesus told the story about the talents and the man who buried his one talent. It was a sin of doing nothing with his talent.

Jesus told the story of a priest and a Levite who saw a badly wounded man along the road, but didn't stop to help him. It was a sin of not caring.

Jesus spoke of five foolish virgins who were unprepared for the bridegroom because they had no oil for their lamps. It was a sin of not being prepared.

When Jesus healed ten lepers and only one came back to thank him, He asked, "Where are the nine?" It was a sin of not being thankful.

Jesus rebuked the people of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, cities where most of his mighty works were done. It was a sin of not repenting. The sin of omission is a terrible sin.

B. Sins of omission are deceptive sins

The sin of omission may be classified as a "respectable" sin compared to other sins. For example, the Bible says *Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)*. We all know that getting drunk is a sin, but it is also a sin not to be filled with (controlled by) the Spirit, but would anybody say, "Did you know he is not filled with the Spirit? How terrible!"

**James 4:13-17** – this passage describes some businessmen who boast of their plans, but never consider the will of God.

Jesus told the story of a rich farmer in Luke 12:16-21. The problem was not what he did, but what he failed to do. He left God out of his plans and out of his life. Hell is going to be full of people who simply left God out of their thinking and their plans.

The sin of omission can be deceptive in another way. Sins of commission are easily seen, especially sins of the flesh. When someone is drinking, people usually know it. When a person is lying, stealing, cursing, gambling, cheating on their spouse, others eventually find out. But the sin of omission is different. It is deceptive and can often be hidden from others.

God has a specific plan and purpose for every one of us. Other people don't know what God has told each of us to do. For example, God may have called someone to be a pastor or missionary, but only that person knows it. A person may live a lifetime of disobedience to

God's call and no one may ever know. Think of the lives that could have been touched if someone had just obeyed the Lord.

C. Sins of omission are destructive sins

All sin has consequences, but the sin of failing to do what we ought to do is devastating. Our nation has been hurt by apathy, the sin of just not caring. Edmund Burke warned, "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

Churches have been hurt because of apathy and indifference. Failure to pray, failure to witness, failure to give, failure to attend, and failure to serve are sure ways to hurt a church.

Families have been hurt by apathy and indifference. Most bad marriages are not blown apart; they just rust apart and fall apart due to neglect. Kids suffer the consequences of parents who just don't care about their spiritual training.

D. Sins of omission are deadly sins

When Paul describes the lost, sinful pagan world he calls out the real problem.

**Romans 1:21** *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

The sin of omission is actually the cause of many other sins. Why is that? If we did what we ought to do, we wouldn't do what we ought not to do.

When Christ summarized the Ten Commandments into two, He said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength." Then He said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." In other words, if you love God supremely, you will not break the first four commandments, and if you love your neighbor as yourself, you will not break the last six commandments.

**Galatians 5:16** *Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.*

**Romans 12:21** *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

**Romans 6:12-13** <sup>12</sup> *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.* <sup>13</sup> *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

Why are lost people ultimately going to Hell? Is it because of what they've done, or is it because of what they've failed to do? Someone developed a gospel tract with the simple question: "What must I do to be saved?" On the next panel was **Acts 16:31** *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.* Then there was another question: "What must I do to be lost?" The next panel was blank. To be lost and without Christ, you must do nothing. Jesus spoke of this deadly sin of omission in **John 3:18** *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

When we confess and forsake sins, we must confess and forsake ALL SINS, even sins of omission. May God help us all to confess and forsake our sins and receive His mercy.