

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

IF WE CONFESS

By Jeff Sweeten

Justice is a prickly subject but not nearly so much as its enforcement. To hear Hollywood tell it, every death row inmate is been wrongly executed and the majority of our prison population is guiltless. It reminds me of a story once told about a king who took an annual "clemency tour" of the castle prison to a chorus of innocence pleas from the inmates. However, he passed one prisoner who was curiously silent and it intrigued him. "Did you commit the crime for which you have been sentenced?" the king asked. "Yes," was the quiet, humble reply, "And I am sorry, your Highness." "Well!" the king exclaimed, "Set this man free immediately. We cannot have such a vile influence on all of these resident innocents." Priceless!

The attempts to fix what ails us has been postulated and formulated to no end by those who refuse God. Some would have you to believe there is no such thing as right or wrong (Isaiah 5:20); which begs the question: Is that right? Some would minimize their wrongdoing with "comparative theology," which consists of measuring one's self with others so as to maintain a sliding scale of personal value; this is total foolishness (2 Corinthians 10:12). Some just hope people forget over time; however, God does not (2 Peter 3:8).

All said and done, we deserve perfect justice that is perfectly administered by a perfect God. The wages of sin is death and all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (cf. Romans 3:23; 6:23). To deny our sin is to lie (1 John 1:8) and there's no refuge in the fact that so many are in the same boat; there's no comfort in negative numbers (Matthew 7:13). The only truthful response to the assertion that we sin is to admit it and to do so quickly (Matthew 5:25). Then, what?

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). "Therefore whoever confesses me before men, him will I also confess before My Father which is in heaven. But whoever denies me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33). Problem solved.

Confession is good for the soul, essential to salvation and, frankly, honest.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130