
Sermon Text Discussion 1/15/17

Psalm 51 – “Repentance: The Neglected Path of Renewal” by Drew Hunter

Overview

The rhythms of renewal series continued with the third installment: repentance. It remains one of the most important and least understood aspects of the Christian life. The health of our souls is directly related to the depth of our repentance. Repentance can be defined as turning from sin and turning to God. It involves these steps:

- 1) Acknowledge God's heart
- 2) Confess your sin
- 3) Request forgiveness and renewal

The effects of repentance are far reaching and impact our everyday lives, our churches, our mission, and our joy.

Quotations

“True repentance always involves the recognition of the pardon of God... only when we turn away from looking at our own sin to look at the face of God, to find his pardoning face, do we begin to repent. Only by seeing that there is grace and forgiveness with him would we ever dare to repent and thus return to the fellowship and presence of the Father.” -Sinclair Ferguson, *The Christian Life*

“We can be justified only once; but we need to be forgiven every day.” -John Stott

“The shallowness of many people who are ‘saved’ may be due to the fact that they have never known themselves to be lost.” -Richard Lovelace

Understanding & Application

- 1) How have you practiced repentance since you became a believer? How does this match up to the process laid out in Psalm 51?
- 2) “The main issue that keeps me from repenting before God like Scripture calls me to is _____.” With regard to your answer, what core beliefs in your heart and mind need to be challenged by God's Word?
- 3) Use Scripture verses to defend this statement: “It is safe to be honest about my sin before God and before other believers.”
- 4) If a brother or sister came to you and confessed their sin to you, how would you respond to them in light of the gospel?
- 5) Does our small group have a gospel culture with regard to the confessing and handling of sin issues? Defend your answer.
- 6) In the process of confessing sin, (see, understand, own, and acknowledge the depth of your sin), where do you struggle most?
- 7) The part of the life in which I most need renewal is _____.