

distraction, pleasure, burying one's self in work, and numbing one's senses are all empty. In the end, nothing has been resolved. The problems, mistakes, and sins are still there.

Repentance, Admission, and Forgiveness Are Resolution

Remember David who was being consumed by the guilt of his sin in **Psalm 32**? Now see how it was resolved: "*I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin*" (**Psa. 32:5**). It's not about pride, what others think, always being right, or defending one's self. Those things fuel denial, excuses, and escape.

We need to be people who resolve our mistakes. When we're wrong, whether it is sin or not, we accept it, admit it, and apologize. As sons of God, we are peacemakers (**Matt. 5:9**) who want to quickly agree with our adversaries (**Matt. 5:25**). And we crave forgiveness more than having a false veneer of perfection. So we admit our faults to others (**Jas. 5:16**). We confess our sins (**1 Jn. 1:9**). We say that we're sorry and ask to be forgiven, without denial, excusing, or hiding. This is how things are really resolved with one another and with God.

Elders: Jay McCrary and Jerry Paschall
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Comments are welcome for improving this bulletin which is published on the first Sunday of each month. Feel free to send articles you have found helpful and instructive as well. Be sure to give credit to the source so it can be properly cited. See or call Ed Williams at 662.323.9502 or glenedwilliams@yahoo.com.

(EW)



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EAST COLUMBUS BULLETIN

Ps 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Selah

Coping With Our Mistakes

by David Diestelkamp

Nobody knew Jim was the one who did it, so he just shrugged and turned away. He didn't get far before there was a hard tap on his shoulder and, in an accusatory tone, someone said, "But I saw you do it!" While still walking away, he mumbled, "It's no big deal," and when someone voiced an insistent, "What?!" he said, "It didn't hurt anyone... everyone does it—in fact you've done it yourself!" Jim managed to avoid them for a while, and he hoped it was over.

Wait, wait, wait. Is that how we handle our mistakes? Do we deny them? Are we skilled at making excuses for what we do wrong? Is it our goal to escape facing problems we have caused and wish they will somehow go away? When we make a mistake - whether spiritual or physical, sin or just a slip-up - we need to stop and notice how we are dealing with it.

Denial Isn't Resolution

"When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer" (**Psalm 32:3-4**). It's sleepless nights. It's fear of being discovered. You can't get it out of your head. You feel like something is dying on the inside; your

Times of Services

Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 11:00 p. m. Worship

Wednesday

- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- 2nd Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- 2nd Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study –Ranch House Restaurant
- 3rd Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study 6:00 p.m. (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting 6:15 p.m. (TBA)
- The Pines Bible Study Sunday 8:00 p.m.; Mon. 5:00 p.m.
- Cady Hill Bible Study Sunday 8:00 p.m.; Thurs. 6:00 p.m.
- Recorded sermons and Gospel Meetings can be obtained by signing up in the foyer or going to the church website at <http://eastcolumbuschurch.com/> or contacting Steve Coburn.
- Kevin Kay addresses submitted Bible questions in his sermon on the 1st Sunday of the month. Don't forget to submit questions.

News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Jack Burkes, Eula Mae Harliss, and Burt Wheeler
- **Limited Health:** Frances Barham, Joyce Monasco, Joyce Ratcliff, and Willena Woods
- **Under Care for Cancer:** Sheree' Woods, Carolyn Johnson
- **Sick:** April Green continues to suffer health problems. Wade McCrary is having health issues. Brody Parker is recovering from back surgery.
- **Deaths:** Funeral services for Harold Young, the father of Lynette Coburn, were held in Florence, AL on March 18. Harold Hurst, father of Michael Hurst passed away on March 20, with services held in Leland, MS on March 24. We extend our deepest sympathies to both families.

Bible Question: Which book of the Bible has the most chapters?

Your Answer:

strength is gone, and life has lost a sense of joy, peace, and meaning.

When David tried to keep silent about his sin, when he hid and denied it, his life was eaten up by it – spiritually, emotionally, and physically. To make matters worse, living a lie sears the conscience (**1 Tim 4:2**). Hearts are dulled, and spiritual ears and eyes aren't open to pure truth anymore (**Mt 13:15**).

Self-justification leads us to *"call evil good, and good evil... put darkness for light, and light for darkness... bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"* (**Is 5:20**). But the truth is still there. Denial, lies, and rewriting doesn't change or resolve anything.

Excuses Aren't Resolution

"The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate"..."The serpent deceived me, and I ate" (**Gen. 3:12-13**). Beginning with the very first sin, the art of excuse making was born. So which excuse will we use today: bad crowd, bad parents or childhood, public school, stress, physical illness, weakness, "It didn't turn out as planned," "I can't help it," "I was made this way," "Everyone does it," "It didn't hurt anyone," "I have stronger desires than others," "You don't understand my life..."?

"Abraham is our father" was a popular first century Jewish conscience salve (**Jn. 8:33-41**). But explanations and exceptions and excuses don't change the past—they don't make a mistake into something right, and they don't make sin into righteousness.

Escape Isn't Resolution

"But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord" (**Jon. 1:3**). We don't like to be around problems. So we avoid people we have offended and hurt. And we don't feel like being around people who are peacemakers—people who show us our problems and urge us to resolve them. We scoff at Jonah — fleeing from the presence of the Lord! But how often have we run and hid from dealing with mistakes and sin? I asked a friend why people kept using drugs and alcohol when it clearly often didn't make them feel good and exacerbated their problems. She said it was because it dulled what they didn't want to feel and made it so they didn't have to face life. There is a sense in which the book of Ecclesiastes is one man's attempt to escape life (and death). But