

For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me” (Psalms 38:3-4). It’s this burden of guilt that makes us say, “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin” (Psalms 51:2).

And the third reason? It’s when we feel guilt the strongest we appreciate forgiveness the most. The sinful woman in Luke 7 loved Jesus “much,” because only He could forgive her “many sins” (Luke 7:36-50). Paul characterized himself as the “chief of sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15), so it’s little wonder that when he was forgiven, he “labored more abundantly than they all.” He wanted to do all he could for the Lord, because he was so thankful for His grace (1 Corinthians 15:9-10).

So you see, guilt IS a good thing—(1) if it makes us repent, (2) if it drives us to seek forgiveness, and (3) if it deepens our appreciation for the grace of God.

Written by: Brian Gibson (Plain Words From Gods Word FB Group)

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Study / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

www.mariettacoc.com



Doing the Will of God

(Matthew 7.24-27)

Jesus’ words in Matthew 7:24-27 are the end of His sermon on the mount which begins in Matthew 5. Some men have discounted Jesus’ sermon on the mount as unrealistic because it is such a high standard. The sermon on the mount truly is a high standard, especially when compared to society’s standard; but it is not unrealistic, it can be obeyed and it must be obeyed to have eternal life. Jesus states to hear His words and not obey. He compares that to a foolish man who builds a house on a foundation of sand. That house is going to fall and great will be the fall of it because it will result in spiritual ruin or destruction. In contrast, is the man who hears the words of Jesus and doth them. Jesus compares this to a wise man who builds a house on a foundation of rock, this house stands and doesn’t fall resulting in spiritual (eternal) life.

Who would build a literal house on a foundation of sand? In the physical realm of life, no one. But in the religious, spiritual realm of life, many build on sand. Many people believe and do foolish things in religion that they wouldn’t do in the physical realm of life. For example, one could liken the Bible to a map for mankind on how to get from earth to heaven. If a person treated a physical map or atlas like many treat the Bible, one can see clearly that many in religion are building on sand. Consider, what good is a physical atlas (map) that has had roads and towns removed that really exist? Or roads and towns added that don’t really exist? Or a map that shows a road going north and south when, in fact, that road goes east and west. ...

An atlas like this is useless as a guide and would be thrown away. But many treat the Bible this way by adding to it, or taking from it, or distorting what it teaches and think the map is still valid as a guide. It's not.

How sad it will be for a person to follow a map for years thinking it is leading him to Heaven, only to find out when the end comes, that he wasn't following (traveling) the right road and has arrived at the wrong destination. Further, now there is nothing he can do about it. This is extremely sad and many are doing this in religion.

We can't be too careful about searching the scriptures with an honest and good heart to make sure we're on the right and only road that leads from earth to Heaven. We do this by following the true map (guide) given to man from God that has not been distorted, changed, or altered in any way by men. The Bereans in Acts 17:11 "were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Also, Jesus taught in Matthew 7:21-23 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

True wisdom is found in hearing and obeying the commands of God. Paul writes in Ephesians 5:15-16, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Written by: Phillip Steen

Guilt is a Good Thing

Seems like maybe we've forgotten that. "I know what I did was wrong, but...(insert your favorite excuse)." We don't like to feel guilty, and we don't want anyone else to feel that way, either. We're reluctant to point out their sin, or perhaps we make excuses for them, too.

It's the way of society today, but it's not the Lord's way. He wants us to feel guilty when we've done wrong, assume responsibility for our actions, and refuse to blame anyone or anything else. A few Biblical examples will help illustrate the Lord's approach. Nathan, the prophet, was not about to let King David off the hook—"YOU are the man...why have YOU despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in his sight?" (2 Samuel 12:7, 9). Peter, the apostle, did likewise to his audience in Acts 2—"YOU have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death" (v. 23)—speaking, of course, about what they had done to Jesus. And finally, Jesus said this to Saul when He appeared to him on the road to Damascus: "I am Jesus, whom YOU are persecuting" (Acts 9:5). Saul was guilty, and the Lord wanted him to know it. Just a few of the many examples found throughout the Bible.

Why is it so important to the Lord for us to feel the burden of guilt? Using the Scriptures, we can find at least three reasons.

First, only then will we see the need to repent, to change our ways. The recognition of guilt before God, or "godly sorrow" is a good thing, because it "produces repentance leading to salvation" (2 Corinthians 7:10). When we're ashamed of what we've done, we don't want to do it anymore.

Secondly, it's only when we feel the burden of guilt that we seek forgiveness (Luke 5:31-32). That's exactly what happened in the examples cited above—they felt the burden of guilt and sought forgiveness from the Lord. David certainly felt this immense burden: "There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin. ...

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