

Weekly Lesson Theme: Staying True In A World Far From God

Lesson Scriptures: Daniel 9:3-10,17-19

Key Lesson Theme: "Confess Wholeheartedly"

Today's Lesson: Friday, September 29

Podcast Version: [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#), or [Spotify](#)

Daniel 9:3-10,17-19

³ So I turned my attention to the Lord God to seek him by prayer and petitions, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

⁴ I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed:
Ah, Lord—the great and awe-inspiring God who keeps his gracious covenant with those who love him and keep his commands—

⁵ we have sinned, done wrong, acted wickedly, rebelled, and turned away from your commands and ordinances.

⁶ We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, leaders, ancestors, and all the people of the land.

⁷ Lord, righteousness belongs to you, but this day public shame belongs to us: the men of Judah, the residents of Jerusalem, and all Israel—those who are near and those who are far, in all the countries where you have banished them because of the disloyalty they have shown toward you.

⁸ LORD, public shame belongs to us, our kings, our leaders, and our ancestors, because we have sinned against you.

⁹ Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled against him

¹⁰ and have not obeyed the LORD our God by following his
instructions that he set before us through his servants the
prophets.

¹⁷ Therefore, our God, hear the prayer and the petitions of your
servant. Make your face shine on your desolate sanctuary for the
Lord's sake.

¹⁸ Listen closely, my God, and hear. Open your eyes and see our
desolations and the city that bears your name. For we are
not presenting our petitions before you based on our righteous
acts, but based on your abundant compassion.

¹⁹ Lord, hear! Lord, forgive! Lord, listen and act! My God, for
your own sake, do not delay, because your city and your people
bear your name.

Live It Out

Most of us don't like to admit our faults. However, confession to the Lord is not telling Him something He doesn't already know. Confession is agreeing with what He knows about us: we have sinned against Him. Such confession is necessary if we are to enter and maintain a right relationship with God. Daniel was a man of integrity; yet he still includes himself in his confessional statements.

When we confess our sin, we do so because we see the righteousness, compassion, and forgiving nature of God. Otherwise, we are not likely to confess if we have no standard against which to evaluate ourselves. Confession leads us to focus on the Lord and to become more aware of His greatness and His

mercy. Therefore, we put ourselves in the position of being able to receive His forgiveness and favor, which is just what He will do toward those who confess and repent.

Obviously, Daniel preceded the coming of Jesus by centuries. However, Jesus would be the ultimate fulfillment of the restoration Daniel prayed for in bringing to life a people for Himself. In Christ, redemption was accomplished. Therefore, for us who believe in Him, Jesus Christ is to be the center of our focus. Therefore, what spiritual practices can lead us to wholehearted confession and keep us rightly focused on Christ? Daniel's prayer offers some suggestions even at those points.

Digging Deeper

Study God's Word: Can you identify a fresh revelation of the Lord that has come to you in recent days through Bible study.

Pray: How do you evaluate the consistency of your prayer life

Fast: Even if you do not fast in the sense of refraining from eating, how do you exemplify the concept in your own life by setting aside something to give attention to the Lord?

Demonstrate humility: How do you maintain a spirit of humility before the Lord?

Confess, profess, and repent: When you pray, how much of your praying is spent professing the greatness of the Lord, confessing sin, repenting, seeking His mercy, and asking for forgiveness, and trusting He will provide it.

Give God glory: How would you say that even as you ask the Lord for His intervention in some need in your life, that you see the

outcome as being for His name's sake, not just your personal desire?

Until next week Saints.....
Every day is Sunday