

Series: Isaiah
Title: The Confession
Text: Is 45: 23-25
Date: June 23, 2026
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Isaiah 45: 23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

"I have sworn by myself." When God made his covenant with Abraham, he swore by himself because he can swear by no greater. He did it to show his heirs the immutability of his council. God is righteous. So every word is sure.

Isaiah 45: 23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Philippians 2: 9: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; 11: And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is God's sure word. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess to God in the day of judgment. The confession will be concerning Christ Jesus and what men think of Christ. But there will be two groups of people making this confession. God's judgment will be in righteousness based on each person's heart toward Christ.

The first is God's elect. They shall bow and confess Christ in faith in this life and give the same account to God in the day of judgment.

Isaiah 45: 24 Surely, shall *one* say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: *even* to him shall *men* come;...

The second group pass through life hating Christ by looking to some work in themselves.

Isaiah 45: 24:...and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed.

But God shall hand down his verdict and his eternal sentence to all found in Christ.

Isaiah 45: 25: In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.

THE CONFESSION OF GOD'S ELECT

Isaiah 45: 24: Surely, shall *one* say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: *even* to him shall *men* come;...

God says, "*Surely, shall one say...*" These are God's elect called by God from among every nation and people throughout time. As the passage says in the next verse, "*all the seed of Israel.*"

Romans 9: 6...For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8: That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

This shall be the sure, certain confession due entirely to God's GRACE. This shall be our confession in this life. We shall have the same confession in the day of judgment.

What is the confession of all who are taught of God? "*Surely shall one say, in the Lord.*" Twice it says, "*In the Lord.*" We confess that all our acceptance with God, now and for all eternity, is only in the Lord. Our confidence is not in us but "*in the Lord.*"

What shall each one confess we have in the Lord, "*Surely, shall one say, In the Lord have I righteousness.*" No sinner called by God's grace will say, "In my obedience to the law I have righteousness." But each confess, "*surely, shall each one say, In the Lord have I righteousness.*"

Galatians 3: 21...if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. 22: But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

If righteousness could be by the law, God would not have sent his only begotten Son to live and die in the place of his elect. But God is holy. He will receive only perfection.

Leviticus 22:21: And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD to accomplish *his* vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein.

That one perfect offering is Christ alone. In order for God's law to be fulfilled the law also requires death for any and all deviation from the law. Therefore, the law curses and condemns us all. Only in the day of God's grace, when the Spirit quickens and the commandment comes, does sin revive and we die.

When did that happen for Paul? Paul was persecuting Christ's redeemed. On the road to Damascus, it was Christ the Light who shined and spoke, "Saul, Saul, WHY PERSECUTEST THOU ME?" Only our Prophet, Christ Jesus, gets the glory for teaching us the spirit of the law. We hear the Spirit of the law only by the Spirit of Christ in the new man. Christ makes us know that the law not only declares us guilty in word and deed but it declares our thoughts are sin, even our very nature is sin.

Luke 10:27...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Christ said, "Saul, Saul--all your religious works are not love to God--because you are persecuting you're your carnal mind is enmity against me! Hating me!"

The law says, "Thou shalt not covet" in the heart. Christ declared, "Saul, Saul, by all your law-keeping you are coveting the glory that belongs to me alone! I am the Brother who has ought against you. Stop working and first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison" (Mt 5: 24-25).

By Christ's Light we see Christ alone is the righteousness of God. We see by faith. Through faith we behold Christ's perfect love in being made like his brethren in all points: made of a woman for his people; made under the law for his people; made sin for his people, who knew no sin; made a curse for his people.

May God make us know this now! The love of Christ in laying down his holy, sinless life to bear the sin and curse to justify his people is the righteousness of the law. Christ is the love who is perfect righteousness imputed to the believer! It is only the blood of Christ that purges our conscience, that grants us repentance to count our own selves and all our works wicked, and creates faith in us to believe on him.

Not only this but we shall confess, "*In the Lord have I strength.*" Righteousness takes in our standing before the law; strength takes in all our sanctification, preservation and glorification. Those truly sanctified in heart confess this now. But in that day we shall know it far more than we do now.

Now, we bow and confess, "*In the Lord have I strength.*" Right now, we confess, "I had no part in being born again. It was the Lord my Strength who is the Life of my new man. It was not me who mustered up faith, and lifted me out of my unbelief and depression and despondency not one time. The Lord is the faith of my faith. I was made willing in the day of his power. He prayed for me, that is why my faith failed not! It was not me who had the strength to put down one sinful lust. It is in the Lord's strength that my flesh was mortified and I was turned to him alone each and every time. I can't boast! It was not me who had strength to do one good work. If I did anything pleasing to God it is by the strength of the Lord. I had not strength

to keep myself, to persevere in faith, anymore than I had strength to raise myself from the grave. Always, only, in the Lord have I strength. Christ said, "Without me ye can do nothing!"

But more than all that--now and in that day--we confess that none of these things is our perfection due to our sin-nature. "*But in the Lord have I righteousness and strength.*" Christ has always been my perfect Holiness alone. He has always been my perfect righteousness alone.

"*Even to him shall men come.*" By God's grace, right now, God the Father draws us to Christ. By God's grace we are not ashamed to confess "*in the LORD have I righteousness and strength.*" But the Lord is speaking of that day of judgment. In that day of judgment, we shall not be ashamed but "*even to him shall men come.*" God says that every regenerated child of God shall come to Christ, bow the knee and "*Surely shall we confess, in the Lord have I righteousness and strength--even to him shall men come.*"

THOSE TRUSTING IN SELF

Isaiah 45: 24:...and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed.

The day of judgment will be drastically different for those who meet God trusting in their works. "*All*"--no exceptions--"*All that are incensed against Christ.*" "Incensed" means enmity. In Ephesians 2, we see how Christ abolished enmity for his elect.

Ephesians 2:15: Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;

In his sermon on the mount, Christ declared the Pharisees were breaking the law and teaching others to break it by teaching that the sinner could fulfill the law. He is the righteousness that exceeds the Pharisee's so-called righteousness. Then our Savior declared the spirit of the law of murder. It is anger in the heart against a brother without a cause. In all their boasts of obedience, they manifest their hearts were enmity against Christ. They were murdering Christ in their heart by their boast of keeping the law. Later he told them plainly.

John 8: 41: But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: 42: Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43: Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word. 44: Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. 45: And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not. 46: Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? [you are angry at me without cause] 47: He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God. 48: Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

In the sermon on the mount, Christ said to call a man a fool--foolishness, godless, a devil--is to be in danger of hell. That is the enmity of the heart in the sinner trying to come to God by the works of the law.

1 Corinthians 1: 18: For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish FOOLISHNESS; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, LET HIM BECOME A FOOL, [let him declare himself the guilty, hell-deserving, ungodly sinner] that he may be wise.

But the day of judgment will be no different than now, "*all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed.*" But in that day, they will be ashamed of all their idols. While God's saints come to Christ, those incensed against Christ will still try to flee to false refuge.

Isaiah 2: 17: And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day...20: In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made *each one* for himself to worship, to the moles and to the

bats; 21: To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. 22: Cease ye from man, whose breath *is* in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?

Revelation 6: 12-17 says that no sinner will be excluded: kings, great men, rich men, chief captains, mighty men, bondman and freemen.

Revelation 6: 16 [all] said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Why so ashamed? God called Adam out of the trees and Adam said, "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." Imagine the shame if just physically you were suddenly naked before the whole world! Far worse, the just Judge will open *the books* wherein is written every sinful thought, word and deed of every man without Christ will be naked before God and before all, with no righteousness to cover their sins. Then God will put them to real shame. God shall declare each one guilty and sentence them to a living death of hell for all eternity.

Be sure to get this. God is righteous. So he does all in righteousness. God's election of grace and predestination is not based on anything in his people--but it is founded in the righteousness of Christ. So God's reprobation of sinners is also righteous--based on the unrighteous, sinful works of men, "the wages of sin is death." God does not arbitrarily save nor arbitrarily damn. All is done in righteousness.

Would an earthly judge be just that arbitrarily sentenced men to death? Or justified guilty murderers? No. God does not save or damn arbitrarily because that would be unrighteous, unjust. Always discern scripture with this foundation, what manifests God's holy righteousness? God does all in righteousness. You must have Christ! Bow and confess yourself the fool and you will find mercy and forgiveness! (Pr 17:15)

THE VERDICT FROM GOD

Isaiah 45: 25: In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified,...

God shall give the verdict in that day of judgment. For all God's elect who confess Christ to be all their righteousness and strength, this will be God's verdict, "*In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified.*" God will open the Lamb's book of life and say, "In my Son, I see you only perfectly righteous from a perfectly holy heart all your days! Justified!"

Then the Just Judge will hand down the sentence, "*and in the Lord shall all the seed of Israel glory.*" God shall give the sentence upon his elect, "I sentence you to an eternity of glory in the Lord. And all the seed of Israel shall spend eternity glorying only in the Lord.

By his grace, we glory only in the Lord now--*in the Lord is all my righteousness and strength.* In the day of judgment, we shall bow and glory in the Lord--*in the Lord is all my righteousness and strength.* For all eternity, we shall glory only in the Lord Jesus Christ our Righteousness and our Strength.

God swears by himself that this word shall surely come to pass. Which group will you be in? Bow and confess Christ now!

Isaiah 45: 16: They shall be ashamed, and also confounded, all of them: they shall go to confusion together *that are* makers of idols. 17: *But* Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.

Amen!