

Hopewell ARP Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, August 26, 2020
Devotional on 1John 1:9

*If we confess our sins,
He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

One Christian duty in prayer is the confession of our sins.

Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. If our hearts truly acknowledge our sinfulness and guilt before God, then when we are before Him, out of our mouths will flow the confession of our sins.

If this does not occur, then we have good reason to doubt that we are Christians. In commenting upon v8, Matthew Henry says,

“The Christian religion is the religion of sinners, of such as have sinned, and in whom sin in some measure still dwells. The Christian life is a life of continued repentance, humiliation for and mortification of sin, of continual faith in, thankfulness for, and love to the Redeemer, and hopeful joyful expectation of a day of glorious redemption, in which the believer shall be fully and finally acquitted, and sin abolished forever.”

So, it is not surprising that the apostle here connects the confession of sin with the forgiveness of sin and cleansing from sin. For, saving faith is the faith that lays hold of the justifying and sanctifying Christ. And this is exactly what it is to confess our sin in prayer: to lay hold of the justifying and sanctifying Christ.

As prayer is a laying hold of God in accordance with His Word, so we can see here the manner in which our confessing sin lays hold of our Redeemer.

First, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to **forgive our sins**. We lay hold of His faithfulness to all of His promises about those who call upon the name of the Lord. We lay hold of His justice, which has been satisfied in the cross of Christ.

One of the ways that we worship the Lord is by prayer that glorifies His faithfulness and justice in the forgiveness of our sins. And the type of prayer that does this is prayer in which we confess our sins.

Second, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness**. We lay hold of His faithfulness to persist with us, to finish that good work that He has begun in us. We lay hold of God’s justice to give Christ what He has earned: to be the Firstborn among many brethren who have been conformed to His image (cf. Rom 8:29–34).

It is those who lay hold of Christ who are forgiven and shall surely be completely cleansed.

And those who lay hold of Christ will be ones who confess their sin in prayer.