

## INSIGHT

It is encouraging to know that in Christ, we have mercy. Many times we may feel hopeless in our struggles. We may even say statements such as, "How can God forgive me?" or "God probably won't forgive me." Mind sets such as these can only lead to despair and discouragement, thus giving Satan the victory! But thanks be to God, who is rich in mercy (*Eph. 2:4*), gives us victory over guilt through the blood of Christ! It is a matter of confessing and acknowledging sin! Confession is a significant element in the lives of believers. It can be divided into two primary responses: the confession of sin (*1 John 1:9*) and the confession of faith, that is, the acknowledgment of Christ as Lord of our lives (*Romans 10:9,10*).

Confession of sins is an aspect of both individual and corporate worship. At the Jordan, John's followers were baptized, confessing their sins (*Matt. 3:6; Mk. 1:6*). Christians are reminded that God faithfully forgives the sins of those who confess them (*1 John 1:9*). James admonished his readers not only to pray for one another but also to confess their sins to one another (*James 5:16*). It is by our coming to the Lord and trusting in His mercy that we are released from all guilt! But we must believe! We must trust and have faith that He is able to forgive! If we doubt, then we are saying God can't forgive! In order for us to receive, we must first believe. For Scripture says, "...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (*Heb. 11:6*) and "...when he asks, he must believe and not doubt..." (*James 1:6*).

Belief (faith, or trust) and confession are two sides of the same coin. If we truly believe He is able to pardon, then He will forgive our sins when we confess them. God does not lie. He is faithful to His Word!

## *The Life in Christ Relying On The Blood*

**Key Text:** **1 John 1:9**  
*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

### **Theme:**

Penitent confession and acknowledgment of sin are the means of deliverance from guilt. It is encouraging to know God will have mercy on us, if we seek His mercy. Our brother John says, in confidence, that He "*will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness!*" God is faithful to His word. He has promised forgiveness to penitent believing confessors. Therefore, trust Him who is full of mercy and grace! Trust the cleansing power of the blood. For He will pardon and cleanse you from the guilt of all unrighteousness! AMEN!

### **Application:**

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. **Have the right mind set!** Hate sin! Do not take sin lightly. Hate it with a vengeance.
2. **Confess your sins!** We see that the Bible teaches us that confession of sin leads to pardon. Confess your sins before the Lord and seek His mercy. He is faithful to forgive and purify a contrite believer's heart!
3. **Seek prayers from the saints!** Scripture also teaches that confession should be made to one another (*James 5:16*). Seek out loving brothers and sisters to confess your sins to. Let them help you, pray for you, and remind you of the grace of the Lord!
4. **Trust in His blood!** God truly loves you and wants to forgive you. For this reason, Christ died for you! He has an awesome God who graciously forgives us through

His Son's blood! Confess and believe!  
**May the Lord richly bless you!**

**SERMON OUTLINE**

**Relying and Trusting The Blood!**

**I. Jesus, Our Priest--Hebrews 7**

**A. Perpetual Priest--7:18-21**

1. Law was weak and useless
  - a. Law is holy and good (*Rom 7:12*)
  - b. Unable to make right for those who sin
  - c. Cannot perfect us
2. We have hope in Christ
  - a. Brings us into the presence of God
  - b. Hope of salvation and pardon
  - c. Hope from a sworn oath by God (*vs 21*)

**B. Perpetual Intercessor--7:22-26**

1. He is our Guarantor
  - a. A better covenant: the Gospel
    - it makes right through His sacrifice
    - it perfects us through His sacrifice
  - b. He intercedes always
    - on behalf of the debtor (us)
    - He promises mercy
    - His blood cleanses us from guilt (*Heb 10:22*)
  - c. He meets our needs
    - Our need of pardon
    - Our need of salvation
    - Rescues us from the consequences of sin

**II. Conclusion**

1 John 1:9--Trust God that He will forgive you when you confess your sins.

**SMALL GROUP STUDY**

**Warm-up:**

What is the purpose of insurance? What does the insurance do in case of a default on a loan?

**See To It** *Hebrews 7:1-3,18-26*

1. Who was Melchizedek? How was Christ like him? List some attributes.
2. Why were the regulations of the Law weak and useless? How does Law differ from the hope of the Gospel?
3. How is the priesthood of Christ different from the Levitical priesthood? What does it mean when the Hebrew writer says, "*others became priests without any oath*"?
4. As our Priest, what does Christ guarantee?

**Seeing It Closer:**

1. What does verse 25 mean when it says, "*He is able to save completely*"? Explain.
2. **Read 1 John 1:7-9.** What two things promote pardon?
3. What does this tell you about the nature of God?
4. What does it tell you about those in Christ?

**Getting To It:**

Pray for each other that we may become people of confession. Not only confessing Jesus before men as we share the gospel with the lost, but confessing sin in our lives. Pray that we would trust in the cleansing power of Christ's blood as we confess our sins to God and to one another!