

Our Confidence Before God

When we come before God in response to his invitation to the Lord's Supper, we pray for forgiveness for our sins. But wherein lies our assurance that our prayer will be heard and that we shall be forgiven?

Can we be confident before God because we are accepted as good citizens by our community? Not at all!

Is our assurance of forgiveness perhaps based upon goodness of character or upon our resolutions to obey the will of God in the future? If we try to place our confidence here, we should read what the Bible has to say about man's character. All our righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of God.

Perhaps we want to rest our assurance and our hope on works of penance that we might do in order to make up for the sins that we have committed. How useless! The standard that God has set for us in his Word is perfect obedience to his holy will. If God demands *perfect* obedience, how can one do something *extra* to make up for sins? Can one do more than that which is perfect?

What then? If we cannot appeal to the opinion of our community, to our character, to our good resolutions, or to penance, what is left? How can we have any confidence before God?

Indeed, if our confidence had to be based on any of these things, we should be in despair. But the great truth of the Bible is that our confidence is not in the opinions of men, in our characters, in our wills, or in our works. Our confidence is in God!

When we confess our sins, we do not put our confidence in ourselves, as if we could satisfy God, we put our confidence in the perfect satisfaction which Christ has made through his death on the cross. In God's Word we read, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Not we ourselves but Christ has made satisfaction for sins, and when we come to God, we can pray to him, "Forgive us our sins, for Jesus' sake, Amen."

Clearly no one is justified by the law, because "The righteous will live by faith."

Galatians 3:11

Covenant Presbyterian Church
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We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor! We would like to keep in touch with you. Please use the QR code to tell us about yourself.



MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise - Insert

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 255

“O Jesus, We Adore Thee”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Exodus 20:1-17

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 246

“Man of Sorrows! What a Name”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation - Insert

“Come, My Soul, and Bless the Lord”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 40:6-9, pew Bible p. 599

Sermon

GOD'S ENDURING WORD

THE LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn of Preparation # 426

“Till He Come!”

Celebrating the Supper

Hymn of Response # 92

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Congregation remains seated as an offering for the Deacons

Fund will be received during the singing of this hymn.

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today. We remember the Lord's death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church.

Today. Our quarterly offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of hymn 92, following the Lord's Supper. Please remain seated for the singing of the hymn and then stand for the singing of the Gloria Patri and pronouncement of the Lord's Benediction.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.