

NEWSLETTER

May - 2024

Sunday Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.
(No Bible Study May 5)

Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study:
7:00 p.m. (No Bible Study May 15)

SPEAKERS

Please join us for Spring
Services May 2 through May 5

**May 2 @ 7:00 p.m.: Paul
Smallwood**

**May 3 @ 7:00 p.m.: Paul
Smallwood & Dave Lappi**

**May 5 @ 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.,
& 6:00 p.m.: Paul Smallwood
& Dave Lappi**

**May 12 @ 11:00 a.m.: Charles
Korhonen, Holy Communion**

May 19: Ken Storm

May 26: Paul Coponen

CONTACT

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TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

SIN

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” - Isaiah 59:2

Sin is the only thing that prevents a person from entering into the kingdom of God and no one is sinless: *“For there is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not”* (Ecc 7:20). Fortunately, God does not expect perfection from us or even for us to attempt to fulfill His holy and righteous law which functions only to reveal sin but not to remove it. He merely asks us to repent of our sin whenever He reveals it to us. Nicodemus, a sinner troubled in his conscience and in search of the truth, learned from Jesus what it was to be born again and to be freed from the shackles of sin: *“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”* (John 3:5). Because Nicodemus eventually answered Jesus’ call to repent of his sin, he will receive a crown of life in heaven when Judgment Day arrives which will be soon.

God’s love is so great that He wants no person to perish in that eternal lake of fire, but that all people would repent of their sins: *“... As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”* (Ez 33:11). Because God does not change His requirements for salvation from person to person (Romans 2:11) and His word remains unchanged (Hebrews 13:8), the way of faith through the forgiveness of sins is spoken of in the same manner in both the Old and New Testaments in the Bible—it is the sacrificial blood which washes away all past sin.

In the Old Testament whenever a person became convicted of sin, he went to the door of the tabernacle with an animal to confess his sin to a priest. There the animal was killed and the priest sprinkled the blood round about making atonement for him and his sin was forgiven (Lev 1: 1-5; 4: 20). If a person brought his animal elsewhere instead of to the tabernacle door his confession would not be accepted by God and he remained bound to his sin (Lev 17: 3-4).

In the New Testament there is one difference: it is now the blood of Christ that is used by the priest to make atonement for any confessed sin. Animal sacrifice is no longer valid as Jesus became the final sacrifice required by God: *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us”* (Hebrews 9:12). All else remains the same where a person voluntarily confesses his sin to a priest who in the New Testament is a believer: *“... ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood”* (1 Peter 2:9). And because a believer possesses the indwelling Holy Spirit and is a temple of God (1 Cor 6:19), it is as if the confession of sin takes place at the Old Testament tabernacle. Thus, you may *“Confess your faults one to another”* (James 5:16).

As already mentioned, unless our sins are forgiven we will not be accepted into heaven. Fortunately, no one needs to perish because God

faithfully calls all people to repent of their sins. He reveals the condition of our heart to us through the spoken word, the living water of God. God patiently calls all people to repent and believe the gospel but He leaves it up to each of us to answer His call. He uses His spoken word delivered by His servants on earth to awaken the searchers of truth to their sinful condition and He guides them to confess their sin and to believe the Gospel of reconciliation preached to them. This is the way of salvation predestinated by God from the foundation of the world. Thus, it is sin that needs to be dealt with before it is too late. When you hear the convicting call of God, ask Him “what must I do to be saved” and he will bring you to the mercy seat where you may openly confess your sin and hear that comforting word of reconciliation proclaimed and you “...*shall receive the remission of sins*” (Acts 10:43).

God's Peace,

Charles Korhonen