

Sermon 2nd August – Getting right with God

Today we are looking at what Scripture has to say about overcoming guilt and getting right with God.

There are things for which we should feel guilty and there are things for which we should not feel guilty. Guilt can have either a positive or negative effect in and on our lives. Positively it can bring us to take responsibility, seek forgiveness and experience freedom. Negatively it can cripple our relationship with God and with other people.

We all mess up don't we? And sometimes we mess up so badly that we feel really bad – and we are overcome with guilt.

The Bible is full of people who have messed up – got it wrong – often in spectacular ways. Jacob; Samson; Solomon; the Woman at the well, Judas; Peter and of course David. In fact Ps 51 was written by him – a Ps of repentance and reconciliation.

King David committed sins that you simply wouldn't expect a good man to commit. And it wasn't one of those cases where he accidentally committed a sin before he realized what was going on

If you've blown it, you need to get past feeling guilty and get back on track.

Ask God to help you change your heart, change your mind, and change your direction as David did.

Too often we are guilty of trying to clean ourselves up and make ourselves "good" so that we will be acceptable to God—and that is simply not acceptable to God!

There is only way I can come to God is 'just as I am' - warts and all

And this is the same message that Paul is giving the Corinthians in the 2nd of our readings. Paul says that because of Jesus – because he came and lived among us; died for each one of us and rose to life – the Old things has passed away and everything has become new. In some translations we hear that we are a 'new creation'. But the Corinthians are not doing that- they are not living in the new creation or as new creations themselves.

But what happens with this new creation? What happens to us after we get this chance at a new beginning? When we make that decision to give ourselves wholeheartedly to Christ, and He begins that work of recreation in us, we become His ambassadors!

What does that mean?

Man has been trying - by their own efforts - to do right and live right for centuries.

But the Bible says we've all sinned and fallen short of God's glory.

By our own efforts, we can never be good enough.

No amount of change can truly improve our lives.

No amount of education can give us a good life. We need a change of heart.

We need to repent. Receive the forgiveness of our sins; we need to live as new creations – live a new life- free from guilt and shame. Only Jesus Christ can do that for us.