

How to Overcome a Sinful Past - Ben Bailey

Sometimes in our Christian life we really mess up don't we? We know what the Bible says. We know what we ought to do. Yet, there are times when we do just the opposite of what is right and we sin. When a person really messes up, how do they overcome that sinful past?

He must recognize and admit the sin in his life. Unless we are willing to say, "I have sinned", we cannot be forgiven by God (1 Sam. 12:21ff). The beloved Apostle John said, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:9-10). Someone has properly stated that to know yourself diseased is half the cure.

A person must also be ashamed of their sinful past. Too often, people who have lived a life of sin go around bragging about the "sins" they used to commit. Sin should be something that causes us great shame, not gives us an avenue to boast (Rom. 6:21). How sad it is when we reach a point that we can no longer blush over sin (Jer. 8:12).

To overcome a sinful past a person must deal with sin in a God-approved way. The only way to deal with sin properly is through obedience to Jesus Christ (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9). Jesus made it clear that to deal with sin one must believe in Him (Jn. 8:24), repent of past sins (Luke 13:3), confess Him as Lord (Rom. 10:10), be baptized for the remission of one's sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16), and be faithful to death (Rev. 2:10).

Finally, to overcome a sinful past one must put the past behind him and move forward. The Apostle Paul said, "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14). To overcome the past, we must put the past behind us and look forward to the future. If God has forgotten our sins (Heb. 8:12-13), can't we? It has been aptly stated, "Those who live in the past are doomed to repeat its mistakes."

All of us have made mistakes in life that we are not proud of. The difference between a person who has overcome sin and one who has not is very simple--Jesus Christ. Have you dealt with sin a God-approved way? If not, why not? Why not do that today? May God help each of us to deal with sin in a God approved way!

(thegospelofchrist.com)

QUESTION: Should we believe in the “rapture?”

ANSWER: No! Undoubtedly there are those whose religious focus seems always to be directed toward the end of time. As well, there are many false doctrines about this matter being promoted throughout the religious world today. Primarily they revolve around the unscriptural theory of “Premillennialism.” Some false teachings included in this theory are: the rapture; the great tribulation; two (sometimes three) resurrections; and Christ returning to reign over the earth for a thousand years. None of this is biblical and certainly cannot be helpful! Many of these false prophets have repeatedly tried to predict the time of Christ’s return.

All have failed and will continue to do so. Jesus said in Matthew 24:36, “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.” It is folly to speculate about these matters. However, we do need to be aware of the truth that He will return someday to judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:30-31). Therefore, we are told in Matthew 24:44, “be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” To be “ready” means to be living a faithful Christian now, and at the time of His coming! Our focus then in this life ought to be on our faithful service in His church, the church of Christ!

Undue anxiousness about the “end of time” will then leave us and, indeed, we will learn to look forward to that great day with joyous anticipation.

Perhaps it would help to list the events that will occur at His second coming:

1. All the dead (good and bad) will be resurrected (John 5:28-29).
2. All (good and bad) will be judged (II Corinthians 5:10).
3. The righteous will go to heaven, the wicked will go to hell (Matthew 25:31-46).
4. The earth will be destroyed by fire (II Peter 3:10).

The faithful Christian will fear none of these things!

(David Amos for Truth for the World)

Braggs church of Christ Bulletin
February 7, 2021

Sick & Shut-in

Bennett, Norma
Brashear, Lana
Brashear, Logan
Bunch, Margaret
Cunningham, Jerry
Evans, Carla
Evans, Steve
Hall, Donna
Horn, Bobby
Isbell, Thomas
Moore, Jean
Moore, Roger
Mouse, Tyler
Nunez, Bob
Prichard, Barbara
Prichard, Bobby
Sturgeon, Wayne
Sullins, Ray
West, Dawn

Evangelism

Cliff Lyons, Ilya Muzychenko and Markov Roman, Russia
Ricky Gootam, India
House to House/Heart to Heart
Website - Braggschurchofchrist.com
Facebook.com@braggscc
In Search of The Lord's Way- Tulsa, OK, on
KQCW TV 19 - Sun 7:30 am

Attendance

January average - 32
Attendance last Sunday - 40

Scripture Reading – Prov. 1:28-30

News & Notes

Gospel Meeting with Allen Webster - July 25-27, 2021

February calendars are on the table in the back of the building.

Bill Isbell will be having colon surgery to remove a section that may be cancerous.