

Morning Worship

September 15, 2019

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship Allan/People

Scripture Reading Romey Keith Davis

Hymn # 575 *I Will Sing of My Redeemer* Romey/People

Worship Prayer Allan Lane

Missions Moment State Fair Ministry

Hymn # 576 *Take the Name of Jesus with You* Romey/People

Offering Prayer LeRoy Bush

Tithes and Offerings People

Offering Music

Hymn # 559 *Rescue the Perishing* Romey/People

Hymn # 557 *People Need the Lord* Romey/People

Special Music

Message Bro. Allan

Hymn # 320 *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* Romey/People

Prayer Concerns Allan/People

Closing Chorus # 386 *The Family of God* Romey/People

Confession of a Dismayed Man

Exodus 9:13-35

What are the three most endearing words in the English language? I love you. They mean so much to us. All of us need to be loved and accepted if we are to live a significant and successful life. Today we begin a new series that's been brewing in my heart and mind all summer. It's based on three other words: "I have sinned." Three little words, but they can mean so much in all our relationships, especially with God.

As a statement they sound like a confession, which is an absolute necessity to restore fellowship between God and His children. Many confess their sins to God, but never receive forgiveness because their confession lacks true repentance. This statement, found seven times in the Bible, covers as nearly as possible, the whole field of sin. Some are insincere and some genuine confessions. We begin with Pharaoh. Read the Text.

1. God Issued A Warning . Verses 13-19

During the Revolutionary War, a loyalist spy appeared at the headquarters of Hessian commander Colonel Johann Rall, carrying an urgent message. General George Washington and his Continental army had secretly crossed the Delaware River that morning and were advancing on Trenton, New Jersey where the Hessians were encamped. The spy was denied an audience with the commander and instead wrote his message on a piece of paper.

A porter took the note to the Hessian colonel, but because Rall was involved in a poker game he stuffed the unread note into his pocket. When the guards at the Hessian camp began firing their muskets in a futile attempt to stop Washington's army, Rall was still playing cards. Without time to organize, the Hessian army was captured. The battle occurred the day after Christmas, 1776, giving the colonists their first major victory of the war. Obviously, since the Colonel had not taken the time to hear or heed the warning, the consequences for him and his troops were devastating.

Here in Exodus, before He sends the seventh plague, we see God once again sending Pharaoh and his subjects a warning, but as we'll see, Pharaoh didn't heed the warning, so there were devastating consequences.

Now obviously, the six plagues that God has sent so far have been pretty bad, and Pharaoh and his subjects have felt the brunt of them. However, with this warning, in verse 14, God says, "I will send all My plagues to your very heart...", and then in verse 15, "I will stretch out my hand, to smite you and your people, and you will be cut off from the earth..."

So basically, God was saying "I've been holding back my hand, but if you don't let them go, you ain't seen nothin' yet! You think the first six plagues were bad? I'm about to send four more, and you're going to feel the full force of them!"

At this point, Pharaoh should have learned his lesson and taken God seriously. So far, every plague God said He'd send has been sent. However, he had hardened his own heart because he was a stubborn rebel against God, and he refused to give up. I think this shows us that he had a problem with pride. He wanted to have the power and be in control, and he refused to let God have it.

What about the world today? Has God sent warnings to the world? The answer is yes, and we don't have to look any further than the Bible. Many believe the book of Revelation holds the prophesy of the 7-year Tribulation Period that is coming to the world sometime in the future. It gives some pretty scary visuals of things that will be happening to the earth as God pours out His wrath on the Antichrist and unbelieving mankind. I don't have time to get into Prophesy this morning, but I'll tell you this: if there is a Tribulation period, none of us want to be here for it.

Thankfully, if you are a pre-tribulation pre-millennialist you believe Christians will be raptured before the Tribulation Period. But can you imagine your mother or father, your son or daughter, your cousin, your close friends, or anyone else close to you being left behind to experience God's wrath?

Of course not, and that's why God has given us the message of hope, that men and women can be saved through Christ alone, through the free gift of salvation offered to all people. While God gives us breath, we need to be telling people about Christ and warning them of the consequences if they reject Christ. They must repent, not half-heartedly, but with a truly broken heart.

We're told in Isaiah 45:23, Philippians 2:10-11, and Romans 14:11 that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. Those of us who belong to Christ will be doing so with joy in our hearts as we give our Great God the praise, honor, and glory He deserves.

However, those who have rejected Christ will be doing so with the realization that they are going to spend eternity in the lake of fire where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. They will realize that they should have responded to Christ and given their lives to Him, but it will be too late for them. We don't want anyone to go there, and Christ died on the cross so that we don't have to go there. So while there's still time, you and I as Christians need to be warning people, and pointing them to Christ.

2. Pharaoh and Egypt Reacted . Verses 20-26

A pastor told about when he was a soldier in Iraq, one of the common attacks the enemy used was to fire mortars at our bases. They never knew when it might happen, so they were supposed to be prepared at all times. Eventually, the military installed some kind of radar devices so that troops could be warned in advance of the mortar hitting.

Scattered all over the bases, there were huge concrete bunkers to protect troops from the blasts and shrapnel. So when a mortar had been fired at the base, they'd hear a loud alarm go off, and the loudspeaker would shout, "Incoming, incoming, incoming!"

As soon as they heard the alarm going off, they were supposed to immediately take cover in the nearest bunker. So this pastor said when he first got to Iraq and heard the warnings, he'd zoom over to the bunkers as fast as he could. However, as time went along, it was common to become complacent. Instead of running to the nearest bunker, some troops would just keep walking, figuring that the odds of a mortar hitting right beside them were pretty low since there were hundreds of other places a mortar shell might hit.

Obviously, the correct reaction was the safest response, which was to take cover. Those who didn't were risking their lives.

Here in Exodus, after God warned Pharaoh and his subjects, they could respond in one of two ways. Either they could heed God's warning and put their livestock and servants under shelter, or they could ignore His warning and leave their livestock and servants out in the field during the hailstorm.

In verses 20 and 21, we see some of the Egyptians reacted wisely to God's warning, while others foolishly ignored it. Those who heeded the warning "feared the word of the Lord..." and took the necessary steps to protect their livestock and servants.

I believe that's because they had already experienced six other plagues, each happening exactly as God said. If He sent the first six, there was nothing stopping Him from sending the seventh one, too. Those who foolishly ignored God's warning reacted unwisely, and they experienced the full force of this plague.

Notice the description given of this hail. Verses 22-25 say, "The thunder and hail and fire will rain down on man, beast, and herbs, and it will be very grievous, such as has not happened in Egypt before."

This was no small hailstorm...these balls of hail falling from the sky were huge, and there were a lot of them. Not only that, but it says fire ran upon the ground. Because this was such a huge thunderstorm, there must have been lots of lightning. When lightning hits a spot, it sends sparks flying because it's electrical, and if it hits in a dry place, it can cause a fire. In Egypt, it doesn't rain very often. It's a very dry place. The lightning from this storm was so powerful and there was so much of it that it was starting fires, and the fires were spreading.

Obviously, nobody could go and try to put the fires out or try to help the servants and livestock or crops because these giant hailstones were falling everywhere. The

Egyptians that ignored God's warning could now see they were wrong, but it was too late.

That reminds me of when Noah preached to the people while building the ark. He warned them of the coming worldwide flood, yet nobody believed him. When God sent the rains, it was too late for those people because they refused to listen, so they perished in the flood.

So why did God send hail and thunderstorms for a plague? Once again, He was showing the Egyptians that their gods were useless and fake, and they couldn't protect them. They worshipped Nut the sky goddess, but she couldn't stop God from sending this storm. They worshipped Osiris, the god of crop fertility, but he couldn't protect the crops from the hail and fire. They worshipped Set, the storm god, but he had no power over this storm and he couldn't stop the storm. And of course, Pharaoh, who was supposedly a god, couldn't do anything to stop this or protect his people, unless he was willing to repent.

Once again, God protected the Israelites from this storm, showing the Egyptians that Israel truly was His nation and people, and He was their Protector.

Notice Pharaoh's reaction to this plague: "I have sinned this time..." Wait a minute...this time? Pharaoh had been lying and cheating all along, and had been shaking his fist at God, but he never called it a sin. Now all of a sudden, he's sinned this time, but not the times before?

God can see right through that. Pharaoh's reaction of being sorry and asking for God's mercy is not genuine. Notice that he also tries to point the finger somewhere else. "The Lord is righteous, and I and my people are wicked..." He's so stubborn that he refuses to take the blame all by himself. He calls his own people wicked. Yes, many of them are following his lead, but he is their leader, so as their leader, he's been leading the way with his wickedness, and they're just following along.

Now he has the nerve to ask Moses to entreat the Lord, and he tries to add a little bit of his own authority when he says, "For it is enough." That right there would be enough for me to recognize that his next words are completely false when he says, "...and I will let you go..."

Once again, he was trying to throw his authority around. "I'll let you go." Now, it wasn't up to Pharaoh. God had already made the decision that it was time for His people to go. It didn't matter what Pharaoh said. No, Pharaoh's reaction was a half-hearted repentance. So how should people be reacting to the Gospel of Jesus Christ today?

2 Corinthians 7:10 says, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." So, the correct response to the Gospel is for a person to come to Jesus with a Godly sorrow and a repentant heart. Godly sorrow is a realization that you're a sinner and you deserve hell because of your sin for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Godly sorrow believes Romans 3 which says, "There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

Godly sorrow sees that the only hope of salvation is through Jesus Christ alone, who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us. Godly sorrow leads a person to the feet of Jesus with a fully repentant heart. Godly sorrow, godly repentance is sincere and whole-hearted.

On the other end of the spectrum, worldly sorrow brings death. Worldly sorrow is like what Pharaoh had. He said, "Seven plagues have happened now, and my people

and land are suffering because of it. I guess I'd better say sorry." Worldly sorrow is an insincere, half-hearted repentance.

It's like after Judas betrayed Jesus, he felt guilty. Instead of trying to make things right and going to Jesus in repentance, he instead threw the money back at the Sanhedrin, then he hung himself. He thought his sin was beyond forgiveness.

King Saul is another example. He disobeyed God's commands several times, but his repentance was only half-hearted. He didn't change, and God rejected him as king.

A lot of people today will come to Jesus with a half-hearted repentance. "Oh, if I turn to Jesus I can have a mansion in Heaven instead of go to hell? I don't want to go to hell, I'm in!" Or, "If I come to Jesus, I can still live a sinful, unchanged life because of grace? I'll take that because I don't want to give up my sin!" Or some people will only respond out of emotion, feeling pressured, but their heart isn't fully repentant.

Those are just a few examples. Our reaction to the message of salvation must be genuine and life changing.

3. God Holds Us Accountable . Verses 27-35

All of us here today have probably had second thoughts before about something. Whether it was a huge life-changing choice we made, or an expensive purchase we made without thinking about the cost, or anything like that. All of us have had second thoughts before.

There was this guy who'd been thinking a lot about losing weight. He was looking online, and read good things about the Slim-Fast diet plan. So he thought he should give that a try. His wife tried to warn him that it might not be what he thought it was, but he figured he'd try it anyway. So off to Wal-Mart he went, and bought \$20.00 worth of Slim Fast shakes, thinking this ought to take care of his hunger cravings.

Well, he drank one, or at least he tried to drink it, and it was disgusting. Normally he likes Strawberries and Cream, but this had a gross medicine taste to it, and he couldn't finish it. After he tried it, he had second thoughts. Maybe the Slim Fast diet wasn't all it was made out to be. It was too late though. He had already opened the packages and couldn't return them. He sure didn't want to drink them, so he poured them down the drain. He started out making a good, healthy choice, but then he had second thoughts, and changed my mind.

I don't know if that guy ever lost any weight or not, but in verses 27 and 28, we see Pharaoh was making a good decision. "Moses, I've sinned! Tell God I give up. I'll let your people go!" If he would have done what he said, then the seventh plague might have been the last one, and he could have focused on rebuilding Egypt. However, Moses himself recognized that Pharaoh wasn't going to keep his word.

In verse 30, he says, "But as for you and your servants, I know you will not yet fear the Lord God!" Once again, God was showing His mercy and grace to Pharaoh and the Egyptians. God already knew Pharaoh's heart, and so did Moses. Pharaoh was going to have second thoughts and change his mind again. Yet God still stopped the hail.

Notice too that the text says in verse 32 that the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they are late crops." So out of 4 important crops, God only destroyed 2 of them with the hail, at least for the time being. God was showing mercy, and giving Pharaoh and the Egyptians reasons to repent and stop their foolishness.

Yet we're told in verses 34 and 35, "When Pharaoh saw the rain, hail, and thunder had stopped, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, and his servants did too. So, he wouldn't let the children of Israel go."

Conclusion:

In the midst of his trouble, Pharaoh cried out for God's help. Then, once the problem was gone, he immediately had second thoughts and changed his mind about letting God's people go.

Isn't that how some people treat God today? Think about it. A close friend or family member will be in the hospital with a serious illness and the doctors aren't sure if they're going to make it or not. So, you cry out to God, "Please heal them! I don't want to lose them! I promise I'll live for you if you heal them." Then God heals them, but you have second thoughts about living for God, and you decide to give the doctors credit instead of God.

Or how about coming down with a serious diagnosis, such as cancer, and you cry out to God, "Please don't let me die! I promise I'll change and live for you!" Then when God heals you, instead of living for Him, you go back to your old ways and you forget about God.

How about when a person comes to Jesus and makes a decision to follow Him, and seems committed, but then things get really difficult. Instead of trusting God to help them through, that person instead has second thoughts, and decides maybe Christianity isn't for them.

Those are just a few examples. When it comes to our salvation, there is no room for second thoughts. We're told in Ephesians 4:22-24, "...put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

When a person half-heartedly repents, it will become evident rather quickly when they start to have second thoughts. They'll have second thoughts about going to church. "I don't think I want to go to church today. I'll go play golf instead." Then, one absent Sunday turns into 2, then 3, then 4, and the more you miss, the easier it gets to stay away.

How about when people have second thoughts about reading the Bible? "It's too hard to understand" or "I just don't have the time." That's our spiritual food. It's how we grow as Christians. It's how we hear from God. But missing Bible reading one day turns into 2, then 3, then 4 days, then more and more, and before you know it, there's a thick coat of dust on your Bible.

Or how about when people have second thoughts about prayer? "I just can't focus when I pray. My mind is somewhere else." Or "I don't think God is listening." Prayer is our direct line of communication with our Lord. If you're not praying, you'll become more and more vulnerable to attacks by the enemy, and you'll grow distant from the Lord.

So, second thoughts are often a sign of half-hearted repentance. If that describes you this morning, I encourage you to go to the Lord in prayer and bring that to Him. Christians must be fully committed to our Lord, ready to do His will, and obey His Word. If you've never made a decision to follow Jesus, or maybe you made a half-hearted decision at some point in your life, but it's never been real, you are encouraged today to turn to Jesus. He loved the world so much that He died on the cross for all of our sin. Turn to Him today, receive His salvation and new life, and start living for Him today.

Is Your Repentance Half-Hearted?

True Repentance

True repentance is turning from sin and turning to the Savior. As we begin a new sermon series in worship it would be good to remind ourselves what the Bible teaches us about sin,

confession, and repentance.

In today's sermon text, Pharaoh admitted to Moses and Aaron, "...I have sinned this time: the LORD is righteous, and I and my people are wicked" (Exodus 9:27). Pharaoh was willing to admit he had sinned *this time*, but what about the previous times when God had asked him to let His people go? He didn't understand confession or repentance.

Here are some other Biblical examples.

"... Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done" (Joshua 7:20). "And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice (1 Samuel 15:24). "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die (2 Samuel 12:13).

Sin is a personal matter. We must accept responsibility and ask God to forgive us. We must never try to cover up our sins. Proverbs 28:13 says "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper." We must learn to confess our sin. Who are we kidding? God already knows we have sinned. Nothing is hidden from Him. Genuine confession is always the right thing to do. Proverbs 28:13 says "He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but he who confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy."

Sin causes plenty of misery. No peace will come from sin. Isaiah 48:22 says "There is no peace, says the LORD, unto the wicked." That means no peace with God, and no peace for a guilty conscience. Neither Pharaoh nor the Psalmist could escape a guilty conscience. And there are no pleasures to be found when there is unconfessed sin in our lives. Isaiah 57:20 says "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt." While there isn't room here to print a lengthy passage such as Job 15:20-24, it reminds us of what happens to the one who does not confess their sin unto the Lord.

Sinners plead for mercy. They all have their reasons. When caught in their sin, Pharaoh and Saul were frightened into a confession. Achan was forced into a confession because he was caught with the stolen goods. He confessed stealing them, but only because he was caught in his sin. True repentance comes not just because you were caught, but because you were convicted of sin and truly sorry.

Are we repentant or sorry we've been caught? Let us confess our sins, and turn away from them to a Holy God Who is ready to hear our confession, forgive us, and restore us to a right relationship with Him.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, September 15, 2019

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: LeRoy Bush, Gary Yarbrough, Ken Nice, Don Sharp

Alternate: Joe Coats

Dinner and Business Meeting at Noon

No Evening Worship ...6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 18

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Sunday, September 22, 2019

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, John Lewis, Bill Schottel, George Burgess

Alternate: Ken Nice

No Evening Worship....6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 25

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events

September 15 — Luncheon and Business Meeting

September 22 — SJBA Annual Meeting, 4:00 pm,

McCarthy

September 23 — Lanes leave for Israel

September 25 — See You At the Pole

October 6-9 — Revival at FBC, Union Star

October 28-29 — Missouri Baptist Convention

Annual Meeting, Branson, Missouri

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Night

We will not have Sunday Night service tonight. We continue to study

some of the commands of Jesus. Come study together with our church family.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

This past week we began *The Daniel Prayer*, a study by Anne Graham Lotz. It's not too late to get in on this study. Won't you please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

Luncheon and Business Meeting

Today, September 15, 2019

Immediately after our morning worship time.

Everyone is invited.

Urgent Prayer Need

Youth Sunday School Teacher

Is God calling you to be a part of building up our youth program and leading teens in discipleship? Praise the Lord! One person has already expressed a sense of God's call, but it's a big job. It would be good to have more than one person. Pray about it! God may be calling you, too! For more information, talk to Bro. Allan.

SEE YOU AT THE POLE
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

Saint Joseph Baptist Association
Deacon Ministry Conference
Green Valley Baptist Church
October 19, 2019
8:30-4:30 pm

For the Record-

Attendance: September 8, 2019

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Sunday School..... | 22 |
| Visitors..... | 0 |
| Total..... | 22 |
| Contacts Made..... | 0 |
| Morning Worship..... | 43 |
| Sunday Night | 10 |
| Children's Worship | N/A |
| Wednesday Night | 6 |

Financial Record:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Budget | \$ 2,286.39 |
| Offering Received ... | \$ 1,539.52 |
| Long Family – August | \$ 120.00 |
| MMO to date | \$ 175.00 |

Offering Received by Mail:

Eric and Shelly Thompson

September Counting Team:

Larry McKahan and Mike Green

September Van Driver:

Mike Green
Call 232-3747 before 8 am

September Member Birthdays:

05...Nellie Reynolds
12...Grant Schottel
20...Elmer Mayse
20...LoLeta Middleton
22...Rachael Molloy
23...Kenny Kirkpatrick
29...Lindsey (Mayse) Rasmussen

September Anniversaries

Al and Karen Shirley
September 26, 2009

Prayer Requests ...

Tim Waters
Roger and Pam Brumley—Pam's
mother's passing
John Lewis

Ruth Anne Bush
Mike Green—ankle surgery
Jack and Flo Conard
Brigida and Jim Winans
Bill Dunn, Donna's husband
Sharon Russell—George's sister
Leroy Stufflebean—George's friend
Chuck and Gloria Stewart
June Fritchle
Gary Hurst—cancer
Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister
Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Sharri Duty
Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!
Romey Keith Davis—Music
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson Elmer Mayse
Kevin Duty Tim Izer
Betty Campbell Nellie Reynolds
Ann Riddle Kenny Duty
Keon McKahan Buddy Means
Jozy Winans Curtis Conard
Pat Means Seth Long
Bill & Juanita Brenda Burgess
Pat Puckett
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
