

May 7, 2014

Brokenhearted For Our Sin

Psalm 34:18 (NASB), ***“The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”***

Several years ago we were visiting my brother who at the time lived in Gunnison Colorado. As usual we played golf one day and at one of the holes (I don't remember which one) on the back of a bench were the words of the above verse. I remember at the time being very surprised by this because this is not normally what one sees on the back of a bench on a golf course. I asked my brother about it and he shared that this was dedicated in the memory of a young person in the community who had passed away very suddenly. This verse while it is a comfort to those who have lost a loved one or are experiencing some sort of crisis in their life is really aimed at that which causes us to suffer the most... our sin and the resulting separation from God.

The verse begins with the reminder that ***“The LORD is near...”*** God answers the prayers and drawn near those who approach Him in absolute humility. It is the character of those who are made righteous by the blood of Christ to have a broken and contrite spirit. This means that they are humbled by their sin and they are completely empty of themselves.

Psalm 145:18 says, ***“The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.”*** That qualifier ***“truth”*** is very important to understanding the message of the gospel. The ***“truth”*** is that we must understand first of all that we are sinners, all of us. That sin is what separates us from God. It doesn't matter what kind of sin it is all sin is rebellion against the one holy and true God. One cannot expect to be relieved of the burdens and consequences of sin if one does not first accept and understand this one immutable truth.

The word ***“brokenhearted”*** that is used here means that one is ***“brokenhearted”*** as a result of their sin. In our culture today and to some extent even in the church we are rushing headlong away from this reality. We may be distressed and depressed because of the results of our sin but how many of us are sorrowed just because of our sin? Sin causes the destruction of lives and causes unbelievable amounts of grief in people's lives. Sin is the cause of so much of the explosion in the reliance on psychotropic drugs in our society today. So much of what we ascribe to mental disorders are really our reaction to the deep seated reality of sin in our lives.

Yesterday afternoon I ran across the breaking story about Monica Lewinski and her upcoming article in [Vanity Fair](#). As I read the article it stated that Ms. Lewinski was deeply regretful of the affair she had engaged in with then President Clinton. She also discussed the consequence of that affair in her life. The impression that one gets is that she has struggled mightily to overcome that chapter of her life. She has had difficulties finding work or getting past that long ago chapter in her life. One also gets the impression from her that she is bothered by the knowledge that what she did was wrong

and sinful and this now weighs heavily on her heart and mind. You see this is the reality of sin; it has consequences and can and does cause lasting problems in our lives.

The good news for Ms. Lewinski and for all of us is that ***“The LORD is near!”*** If we approach God in humility with the understanding that we are sinners in need of a Savior then God hears us and draws us to Him. Psalm 51:17 says, ***“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”*** What God does despise is the prideful heart! We must come to Him with nothing of ourselves left over, with the understanding that our only sufficiency is in Him.

If you are ***“brokenhearted”*** and ***“crushed in spirit”*** I want to encourage you to repent of your sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. If you have any questions about what that means please contact me here at Calvary Baptist Church at 970-824-5222. You also may contact me on Facebook or on Twitter at @Adamspastor. You also may contact me via email at pastortra@centurylink.net.