GONE!

My Sin•My Sorrow•My Shame



Finding Forgiveness

Gone - Episode One "Finding Forgiveness" Rev. Richard C. Whitcomb rev.whitcomb@revrcw.com

Colossians 1:14 "God has purchased our freedom with his blood and has forgiven all our sins."

Luke 15:11-24 The Parable of the Prodigal Son

1. Recognize I _____ God.

Three Steps to Finding Forgiveness:

A Prodigal is someone who leaves a better way of life for a lesser way of life.
Hebrews 11:25 "the passing pleasures of sin."
Proverbs 23:5 "Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven."
Galatians 6:7-8: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruptions, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."
Proverbs 27:24, "A crown does not endure to all generations."
John 1:14 "So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us."
John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son"
2. Return to God.
2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."
Mark 15:37-38 "Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed His last and the curtain of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom."
3. Receive God's through Jesus Christ.
John 3:16 "so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life."

Memory Verse for this week:

"God has purchased our freedom with his blood and has forgiven all our sins." Colossians 1:14

Study Questions:

- 1. What is the greatest difficulty for you in finding forgiveness from God?
- 2. Have you ever suffered the consequences of sin? Have you ever carried a burden because of something wrong you did? What are some of the consequences you have suffered because of your own sin?
- 3. Read 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." Make a list of sins you have committed for which you need forgiveness. Read this list out loud to God as a confession. Then ask God to forgive you for each sin. Rejoice in the Lord and thank him for forgiving you!

You may wish to pray this prayer:

"Dear Father in heaven, I come to you in the name of your son Jesus Christ. I confess these sins to you today (read the list of your sins which you have written out). I have sinned against you and I deserve to be punished for my sin. I am sorry for committing these sins. But I believe that your son Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead so that I could be forgiven. I ask you today to forgive me of all my sins and wash me completely clean, in Jesus' name. Help me to live for you and give me the strength of your Holy Spirit. Come and live inside of me. Amen."

4. God does not want anything to separate us from him. That's why when Jesus died on the cross, the curtain in the Temple was torn from top to bottom. This act by God removed the barrier that stood between God and the people. Spend time talking to God every day so that you can remain close to him.

