

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

YOU ARE THE MAN

Romans 2:1 "You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things."

King David committed adultery with Bathsheba. He attempted to cover-up his sin but failed. His sexual sin led him to also commit the sin of murder as he arranged for Bathsheba's husband to be killed in battle by placing him in the front lines of the army. God sent Nathan the prophet to confront David concerning his sin.

Nathan told David a parable of a rich man, who stole the pet lamb of a poor man to prepare a meal for a guest at the palace. When Nathan asked David what should happen to the rich man, "David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." (2 Samuel 12:4-6)

Only after Nathan pointed his finger at David and said to him, "You are the man!" was David led to confess and repent. "David said to Nathan," 'I have sinned against the LORD.'" (2 Samuel 12:13) And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die." Then Nathan went to his house." (2 Samuel 12:13-15)

It is so much easier to see the sins others commit than your own. This was true for David. This is also true for you. Yet, Jesus said, "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye." (Matthew 7:1-3)

Read and meditate upon the hymn below that picks up the message of today's devotion. Yes, you too have sinned as did David and as do all human beings. "There is not a just man upon earth that does good and sins not." (Ecclesiastes 7:20) Thanks be to God, in His grace and mercy He graciously given you faith in

Jesus to receive pardon of your sins and peace in your soul as you confess with the words of Luther found in the meaning to the 2nd Article of the Apostle's creed, "(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. . ." (Small Catechism)

Prayer: Jesus Savior wash away, all the sins that I have committed this day.
Amen.

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might never die, Died that I might live on high.
Lives that I might never die. As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me— wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus, can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.
(LSB 611)