

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

March 4, 2016

- ✓ Numbers 5:1-10– Confession and restitution.
- ✓ John 13:1-10 – Jesus washes the feet of His disciples.
- ✓ Psalm 6:1-5 – Because of God’s loyal love.

COMMENTARY:

Numbers 5:1-10. After the collective nation of Israel has been numbered and organized in the first four chapters of Numbers, chapters 5-6 contain instructions on confession, purification, restitution, and sanctification. Numbers 5:6 shows that anyone who sins against another person effectively commits sacrilege against God. In other words, when we sin we not only violate a command of God and thus need His forgiveness, we are actually striking out against God directly and personally. For example, when a believer slanders another person, he is not only committing a sin against that person, but against God Himself. Sins against anyone in the covenant community of Israel was considered a serious offense against the God of that community of faith. Likewise, the New Testament believer is given grave warnings regarding sinful attitudes or actions with respect to fellow

believers: *1 John 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 1Jo 2:9 The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 1 John 3:15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 1 Corinthians 11:17 Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. 18*

*For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 1 Corinthians 11:30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. Regarding confession, it is important to grasp the reality of confession from the perspective of metaphysical realism rather than in a reductionistic, mechanical manner (as per analytical philosophy’s flat view expressed in “just name it”). Note the metaphysical fullness, all of the mental attitude dynamics of David’s confession in Psalm 51. Note his humility and 2nd order desire to live *according to truth and wisdom and for God to create in him a clean heart* (51:6, 10). There is so much more in this passage about basic attitude than some rote conduit confession.*

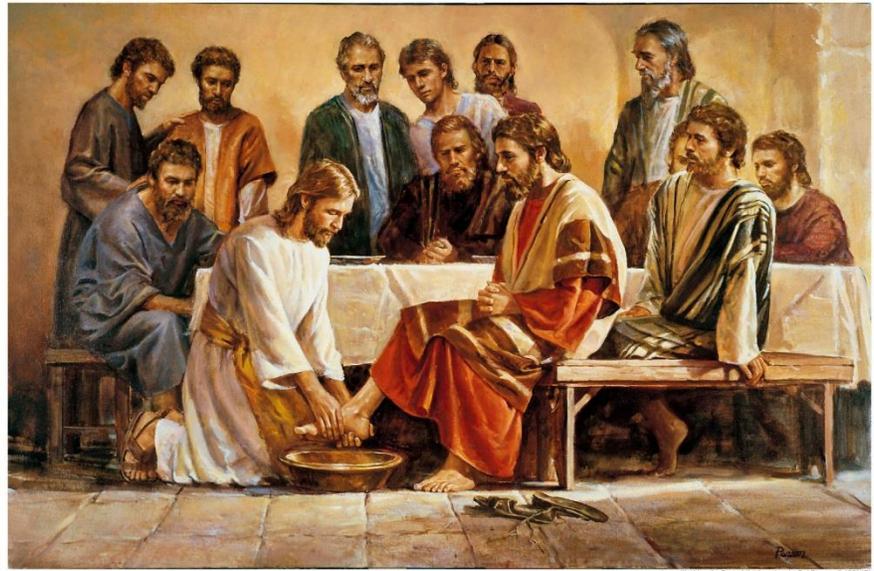


John 13:1-10. Foot-washing was needed in Palestine. The streets were dusty and nasty (often containing animal dung) and the people wore sandals without socks. It was a mark of honor to provide a servant to wash a guest's feet. Moreover, wives often washed their husbands' feet, and children washed their parents' feet. Most people, however, had to wash their own feet. Note how Peter has a real problem with Jesus washing his feet. He did not want Jesus to act as a servant to him—understandably so! However, Jesus got his attention with “unless I wash you, you have no part with Me.” This does not refer to baptismal regeneration as per the Roman Catholic view.

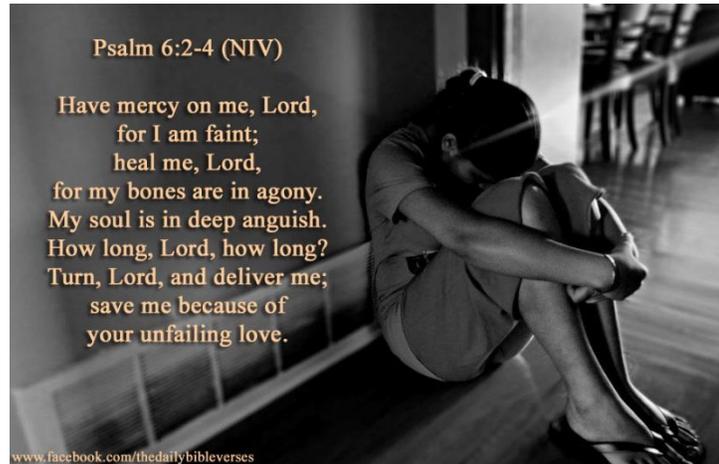
While some try to link it to 1 John 1:9, I think it is better to see its fulfillment in 1 John 1:7. If the truth was a picture of 1:9, then we would expect it to accompany Peter's

confession, but such is not the case. It is a beautiful picture of 1 Jn 1:7, as we walk in the light, the Lord cleanses us from all sins. What an awesome picture of Jesus Christ! Instead of basking in His power, glory, and authority, Jesus took on the role of a servant (Philip. 2:7), a role that was given to Gentile slaves and women. Let us not miss the whole truth of what Christ

is doing: He not only teaches how He will cleanse us, He give us an example of humility to emulate. The context indicates that the disciples were filled with thoughts of personal greatness *over* others (Mark 10:37; John 13:37) and needed Jesus's example of the importance of humility *before* others.



Psalm 6:1-5. In this psalm David prays to God for relief from ‘chastening’ from the Lord. If we find that we have been living apart from the Lord and find ourselves in the throes of divine discipline, it is always wise to turn to the Lord and ask for relief. However, it is important to understand that confession of sin does not mean that the suffering will *immediately* be removed. David asks God “how long” will the pain continue. Note that he appeals, not to his own righteousness, but to the loyal, unfailing love of God. He saves us and forgives us, not because of who and what we are, but because of His own character and plan. Thank God that it really does all depend upon His grace.



In, by, with, through, and for *Esse*,

Pastor Don