



From Sinners
to Saints:
Facing the Facts

We need a spiritual U-turn:
Repentance



We must admit that we are
going in the wrong direction



It is not enough to
stop sinful actions



The real problem is in the
mind and heart



Romans 8:7

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.



Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately wicked;
who can know it?



Luke 18:10-14

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, “God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.” ...

Luke 18:10-14

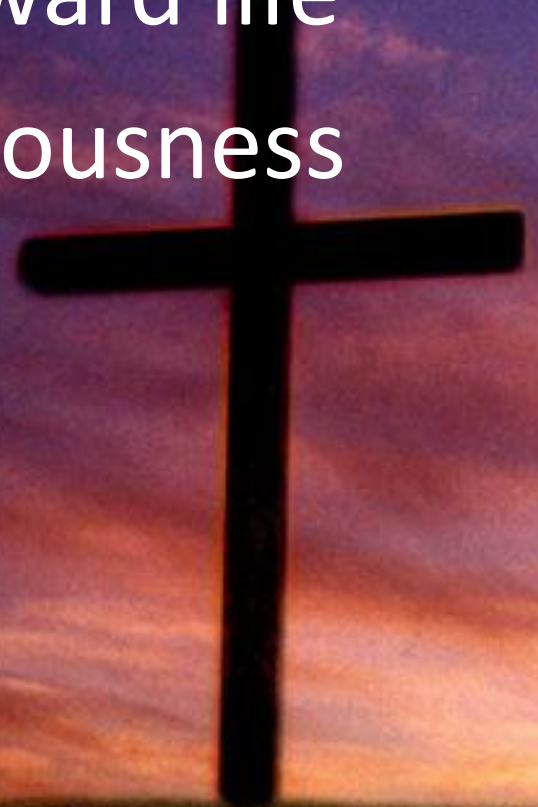
And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Pharisee

Standard was other men

Satisfied with the outward life

Trusted his own righteousness



Tax collector

Did not compare himself with others

Knew he had no merit

Begged for mercy



Cain and Abel



Genesis 4:3-5

And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering.

Cain and Abel

Cain brought a thank offering

No confession

No plea for mercy

Abel brought blood

Admitted he was a lost sinner

Sought God's mercy

Two sinners needing mercy



Titus 3:5

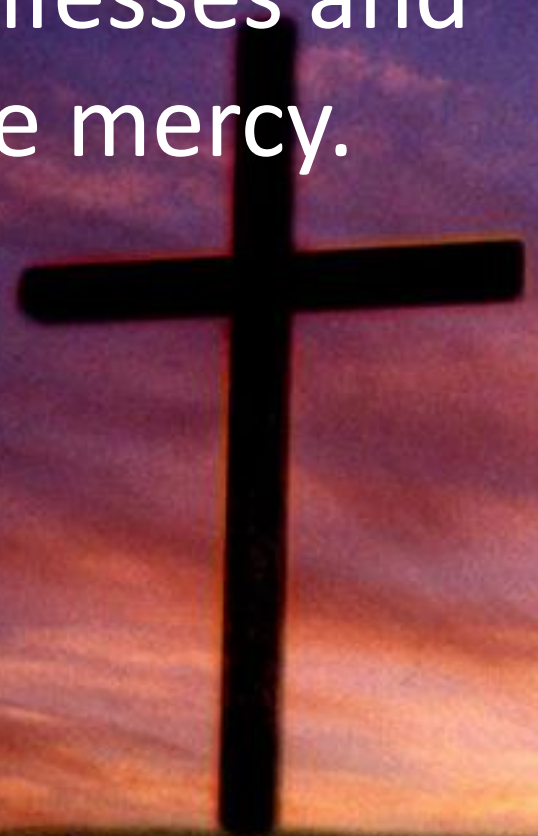
Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Only one confessed his guilt
Only one was justified



Proverbs 28:13

He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.



Why do we need to confess?

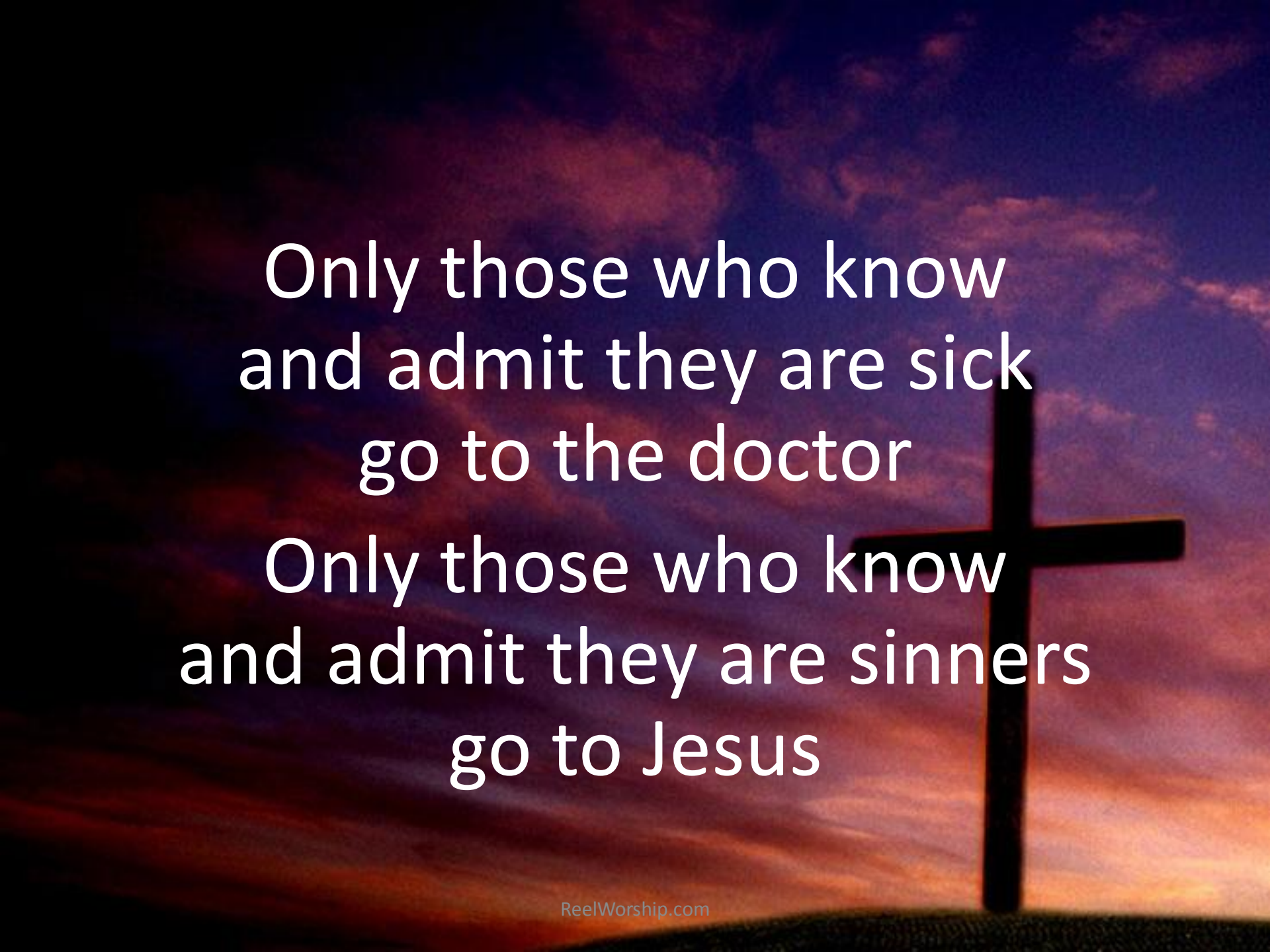


God already knows our sins
God already paid our penalty



Luke 5:31-32

Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.



Only those who know
and admit they are sick
go to the doctor

Only those who know
and admit they are sinners
go to Jesus

Confession leads us to:

Face our sin

Accept our need of Christ

Receive His grace and mercy



Bad confession



Luke 18:9

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:



Bad confession:

Blind to sin

Does not realize the enormity of evil

Justifies self

Makes excuses

Insincere confessions



Good confession

Paul



Acts 26:10-11

This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

Romans 7:9

I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.



1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Good confession

Paul

David



Psalm 51:1

Have mercy upon me, O God,
According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your
tender mercies,
Blot out my transgressions.

Psalm 51:3

For I acknowledge my transgressions,
And my sin is always before me.




Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit
within me.



Psalm 51:12

Restore to me the joy of
Your salvation,
And uphold me by
Your generous Spirit.



How should we confess?

Heartfelt and freely expressed

Not forced or coerced

Acknowledge sin and guilt

No excuses

Definite and to the point

Admit we are lost

Why wouldn't we do this?

Don't hate sin

Not truly repentant

Not truly seeking for forgiveness



How do we fix this?

Face the facts: ABC

Admit that we are broken, faulty, sinful

Behold Jesus, our perfect Substitute
and Example

Claim Christ's grace as
the only solution

What is the result?



1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ezekiel 33:15

If the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

