

Lesson: The Hebrews

Seminar Questions:

Topics: Repentance, Humility, Charity:

Source:

The 50th Psalm attributed to King David

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; according to the multitude of Thy compassions, blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my sin.

For I know my iniquity, and my sin is ever before me.

Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before You, That You might be justified in Your words and prevail when you are judged.

For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me.

For behold, You have loved Truth; the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom have You made known to me.

You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean;

You shall wash me and I shall be made whiter than snow.

You shall make me to hear joy and gladness;

The bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice.

Turn not away from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me...

A heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise.

Questions:

Repentance:

Is "repentance" still relevant?

Can we repent without reference to God?

Are there preconditions to repentance?

Does repentance require you to ask forgiveness of the person whom you wronged?

What determines whether a person repents?

Can repentance make the sinner/criminal "whiter than snow?"

Humility:

“a heart that is broken and humbled, God will not despise.”

In today’s world, we tend to emphasize self-esteem. Is humility undervalued? Does it still have a place in our modern world?

Are humility and self-esteem mutually exclusive?

It’s been said that much of our education breeds arrogance, but true education breeds humility. What do you think that means? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

How and where does one learn humility?

Alms-giving(Charity):

“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusement, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our giving does not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say it is too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot because our commitment to giving excludes them.”

C.S. Lewis

Do you agree with Lewis?

How much do you think one ought to give?