

Sermon Handout
Prayers of Confession
I John 1:9

I. Confession of Sins

- a. I Jn 1:9 speaks clearly of confession as prayer
 - A. The opposite of vv. 8 and 10 (denial of sin)
 - B. God's response is to forgive and cleanse
 - C. Affirmation of the advocacy of Jesus 2:1-2
- b. John's words are parallel to Proverbs 28:13
- c. Confession is enjoined by the prophet Jeremiah Jer 3:11-13
- d. Key New Testament examples
 - A. The followers of John the Baptizer Mk 1:4-5
 - B. The Apostle Peter Lk 5:1-9

II. The Lesson of Psalm 66

- a. A general call to worship God vv. 1-4
- b. A call to all mankind: "Come and see" vv. 5-7
- c. Blessings for & obligations of those who serve God vv. 8-15
 - A. Called to bless the Lord vv. 8-9
 - B. His people chastised by the Lord vv. 10-12
 - C. Their response is confession of sin vv. 13-15
- d. A call to God's people: "Come and hear" vv. 16-20
 - A. Celebrates forgiveness & restoration vv. 15-17
 - B. Warns against unconfessed sin v. 18 *cf.* Is 59:1-3
 - C. Gives assurance of forgiveness vv. 19-20

III. The Lesson of Psalm 51 (Background: II Sam 12:1-14)

- a. Addressed to God in his covenant faithfulness and mercy v. 1
- b. Acknowledgement of personal fault (sin) vv. 2-4
- c. Acts of sin grow from innate sinfulness (original sin) v. 5
- d. A request for cleansing and restoration vv. 6-12
- e. Assessing the results of forgiveness vv. 13-19
 - A. A mouth able to praise and instruct vv. 13-15
 - B. Restored effectiveness of worship vv. 16-19