

Worse Than Death

by Warren Wiersbe

The Christian's worst possible experience is sin, but with confession and repentance, God forgives and restores us.

Scripture: Psalm 6:1, Proverbs 28:13, Acts 2:21, James 5:16, 1 John 1:9

Topics: "Sin And Forgiveness", "Christian Character"

Description

Warren Wiersbe emphasizes the importance of confessing our sins and seeking God's forgiveness, using Psalm 6 as an example of a penitential psalm where David pleads for mercy and forgiveness. He highlights that God's chastening is not punishment but a way to build our Christian character, emphasizing that God chastens us in love. Wiersbe stresses the seriousness of sin, stating that it is the Christian's worst experience, but encourages believers to come to God for forgiveness without fear, as God is merciful and gracious to those who confess their sins.

Transcript

Read Psalm 6:1-10

All of us know what it means to sin and to confess our sin. Psalm 6 is the first of the seven penitential psalms. Occasionally God has to remind us to confess our sins.

In verses 1-5 David pleads for God not to rebuke him or to chasten him. God's chastening is not punishment. It builds our Christian character. Hebrews 12 talks about chastening, and the word used means "child training." It's the picture of a child learning how to be a good athlete. God chastens us, but He does so in love. David was afraid that God was going to chasten him in His hot displeasure (v. 1). But our God is a God of mercy and grace. This doesn't mean, however, that we can minimize sin. This doesn't mean we should ever say, "Well, God is a forgiving God; therefore, I can do whatever I want to do, and He will forgive me." No, David was saying, "Lord, I've sinned. I'm weary with my groaning. Forgive me. I have done wrong." And God does forgive those who confess their sins to Him.

Sin is the Christian's worst possible experience. It's far worse than pain or suffering or even death itself. We are weak, and sometimes we fail. But let's never be afraid to come to our Father with our appeal for forgiveness. The tragedy is that all around us, enemies are waiting for us to fall. They want to point at us and say, "See, that Christian failed." But we can come before the Lord and ask Him for His forgiveness, and He will grant it to us. God will have mercy on us. "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be

saved" (Acts 2:21).

We must never treat sin lightly. Certainly, no Christian should ever harbor sin. But when we do sin, we may lean on God's mercy and grace and confess our sin to a loving Father. One of the great encouragements of the Christian life is that God forgives and restores. Are you living with unconfessed sin? Avoid God's chastening. Confess your sin and ask for His forgiveness.

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