

# Daily Prayer

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

Today's prayer is the first of several exploring the difference between "religious" repentance and "gospel" repentance as presented in Tim Keller's *gospel in life Grace Changes Everything* (capitalization follows book cover), pages 28-30.

Heavenly Father

Thank you for revealing yourself to be nobody's fool.  
We cannot lie to you - you see everything!  
Repeatedly in the history of your people  
you have chastised us for our shallow, false, self-serving repentance.  
You have always been after our hearts  
at their deepest level.  
Please help me be honest with myself.

I know at one point I felt that the purpose of repentance  
was to keep you happy so you would continue to bless me  
and answer my prayers.  
In this mode I was only worried about my sins' consequences.  
My goal was to avoid punishment,  
I wanted that desperately,  
so I repented.

Your word tells me  
*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*  
So, ultimately, if Jesus is truly at work in me by his Spirit,  
then my sin cannot, finally, condemn me.

The hatefulness of my sin is not about what it does to me -  
it's what it does to you, Lord.  
It displeases and dishonors you.  
I get it.

Repentance in my "religious" mode is about me.  
Repentance in "gospel" mode is about you.

Lord, please deliver me from my preoccupation  
with what my sin does to me, its consequences,  
and replace it with sorrow for what my continued sin does to you.  
For Jesus and his kingdom's sake. Amen.

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Against the persecution of a tyrant the godly have no remedy but prayer.

- John Calvin