

The Joy of Vicarious Repentance

*“But if he has wronged you
or owes anything,
put that on my account!”*

Philemon 18



“Priests”

Revelations 1:6; 5:10

The Joy of Vicarious Repentance

Divine Solidarity

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LAV

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Philemon 18

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Love obliges, stands up for others.

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The Joy of Vicarious Repentance

Foreword:

It is a great blessing and joy for us to greet you, dear reader, in the wonderful name of our LORD JESUS: You, who spent many years in blessed prayer service; you, who is unsure if GOD even hears or grants your prayers; and you, who does not even pray. May He bless each and every one of you, with all your family, from His sanctuary with eternal blessings! **“May He send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion” (Psalm 20:2)!**

At our second theological college in 2011 in Zavelstein, a fellow Christian spoke to us: “Do you remember us? At that time - it was 21 years ago - you held a Bible Week, together with Brother Manfred Kreutz, International Midnight Call Ministries, in Bad Kreuznach, and we have not forgotten your message about Abigail.” In the same year, 2011, this was then our theme, albeit expanded, at a conference in the congregation of Pastor Wolfgang Schmidt in Berlin-Spandau.

THE DISPOSITION OF THE PRIEST – THE DISPOSITION OF THE BRIDE

THE DISPOSITION OF JESUS

Yes, this message was spoken into our hearts by the LORD Himself at our last home leave in 1993 after 14 years of teaching ministry in the International Bible School, Midnight Call, in Montevideo, Uruguay, South America, in the Felsengrund Bible and Retreat House, as we prepared a study of **1. Samuel 25**. Through the practical example of Abigail, He gave us a deeper and more intimate understanding of His wishes for the bride of the LORD JESUS, in our personal lives *with* Him and *for* Him and especially for our lives of prayer in priestly service of the bride of CHRIST, for a lost world and for Israel, but first and foremost, for His Church!

1. Psalm 22 and Psalm 69

Atonement and Vicariousness

In both **Psalms 22** and **69**, the LORD GOD Himself shows us, in an unparalleled way, this priestly disposition. He thereby discerns, before our inner eye, His atonement, that only He could fulfil in the LORD JESUS, and His vicariousness, into which He took us also, concerning our convocation.

Psalm 22:1: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” This depth of suffering: unquenched thirst, no answer, inexpressible loneliness and forlorn, this *atonement* of our sins only CHRIST could achieve for us, because only His pure life, given on the cross as offering and sacrifice, could produce for us this value.

Psalm 69:4: “Though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it.” This *vicarious suffering* of the Son of GOD He also allows His own disciples, not atoning, but rather in *their* realm of relations, to endure, to work through and to pass through. For example, like that of the prophet from a clerical family, Jeremiah, who suffered the sins of his folk (Lamentations 3:1-21; Jeremiah 11:19), but could not atone it, because he himself needed forgiveness!

To this day, the LORD has deepened the calling to this priestly status and disposition of His own in our spirit. “**And since we have that same Spirit of faith, according to what is written, ‘I believed and therefore I spoke’, we also believe and therefore speak**” (2. Corinthians 4:13).

For He made His earthly covenant people Israel into a priestly kingdom and His spiritual covenant people into a kingly priesthood.

We read this in

Exodus 19:6: “you will be for Me a *kingdom of priests*”

for *Israel* and in

1. Peter 2:9: “But you are ... a royal *priesthood*”

for the *congregation or Church*.

2. ***“GOD is Light”*** ***and “GOD is Love”.***

SERVICE IN THE MILLENNIUM

Because GOD is light, the sacrifice had to occur. Because He is love, He brought about this sacrifice Himself through His beloved Son, our LORD JESUS CHRIST. And through His HOLY SPIRIT He took us into His ministry of light and love – apart from the atonement.

For the 1000-year reign GOD confirms this office of proxy of the priest, saying: **“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of GOD and of CHRIST, and shall reign with Him a thousand years”** (Revelation 20:6).

The revelation of the temple in the millennium in Ezekiel 40 – 48 underlines and supports 600 years before this very intention of GOD.

SERVICE IN ETERNITY

And in **Revelation 21:22**, when it is written: **“But I saw no temple in it”** - in New Jerusalem - **“for the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY and the LAMB are its temple”**, then this means: eternal love and eternal light, for **“GOD is light”** (1. John 1:5) and **“GOD is love”** (1. John 4:16.19).

After the Son will have delivered to GOD the Father His 1000-Year Reign of Peace (1. Corinthians 15:24.28; Revelation 20:2 – 7), **“there shall be no more curse”** (Revelation 22:3), but **“His servants shall serve Him”** (Revelation 22:3).

How this service shall appear is shown to us in the following writing:

After the confession of Peter, the first mention of the Church, the first prediction of His death and His resurrection, and the question of the cost of discipleship, we read:

**“For the Son of Man will come
in the glory of His Father with His angels,
and then He will reward each according to his works.”**

Matthew 16:27

**In the Parable of the Minas (Pounds),
during the LORD’S long travels:**

**“Then came the first, saying,
‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’
And he said to him,
‘Well done, good servant;
because you were faithful in a very little,
have authority over ten cities.’
And the second came, saying,
‘Master, your mina has earned five minas.’
Likewise he said to him,
‘You also be over five cities.’ ”**

Luke 19:16 – 19

In the Parable of the Talents:

**“ ‘Well done, good and faithful servant;
You were faithful over a few things,
I will make you ruler over many things.
Enter into the joy of your LORD.’ ”**

Matthew 25:21.23

**Afterward in the Judgment of the Nations sermon,
At the Second Coming of CHRIST:**

**“ ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom
prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
For I was hungry and you gave Me food;**

**I was thirsty and you gave Me drink;
I was a stranger and you took Me in;
I was naked and you clothed Me;
I was sick and you visited Me;
I was in prison and you came to Me.’ ”**

Matthew 25:34 – 36

Concerning the Judgment of Believers:

**“If anyone’s work which he has built on it”
- on the foundation of CHRIST-
endures,
he will receive a reward.”**

1 Corinthians 3:14

**“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of CHRIST,
that each one may receive the things done in the body,
according to what he has done, whether good or bad
this means *with* the LORD JESUS or *without* Him.”**

2 Corinthians 5:10

**“Command those who are rich in this present age
not to be haughty,
nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living GOD,
who gives us richly all things to enjoy.
Let them do good, that they be rich in good works,
ready to give, willing to share,
storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come,
that they may lay hold on eternal life.”**

1 Timothy 6:17 – 19

Concerning the 1000-year reign and eternity:

**“This is a faithful saying:
If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him.
If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.”**

2 Timothy 2:11 – 12

See also: Revelation 3:21

Concerning eternity:

**“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me,
to give to every one according to his work.”**

Revelation 22:12

**“Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors,
and their works follow them.”**

Revelation 14:13b

“THE SOUL OF THE PRIESTS WITH ABUNDANCE”

Jeremiah 31:14

And for the present day, the LORD promised:

**“I will satiate the soul of the priests with abundance,
And My people shall be satisfied with My goodness,
says the LORD.”**

Jeremiah 31:14

But, priestly service means repentance and vicarious repentance. Then the *priest* is the guide who brings doomed people, because of their sins, to the thrice holy GOD (see GOOD FRIDAY and EASTER / RESURRECTION and ASCENSION DAY), like the *prophet* is the guide who brings GOD to the people (see PENTECOST).

Because GOD would not assign ministries for us, for which He would not give us the qualification, therefore this wonderful centre, example, and gift of GOD for the office of the priests, the office of each believer, and with this the office of vicarious repentance is *in* us

JESUS CHRIST

OUR HIGH PRIEST – THE O N E MEDIATOR

CALVARY – Divine Solidarity

3. “ *O n e Mediator, CHRIST* ”

Divine Solidarity

Calvary

This is why GOD's anointed, for all eternity in the house of the Father (John 1:18; Proverbs 8:22; Micah 5:1; Colossians 1:15–17), became a man (CHRISTMAS 2000 years ago). He wanted to be our High Priest, who at the same time was the Sacrifice, and therefore sits at the right hand of GOD and prays for us and intercedes for us.

Therefore, it is now also **“the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man ... But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) of a better covenant, which was established on better promises” (Hebrews 8:1.2.6).**

After the HOLY SPIRIT has shown, through the writer to the Hebrews, the temporary nature of the Hebrew service's carnal ordinances (Hebrews 9:8 – 10), he explains:

“But CHRIST came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, (ASCENSION 2000 years ago) having obtained eternal redemption (anticipated in His baptism).

For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of CHRIST, who through the eternal SPIRIT offered Himself without spot to GOD, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living GOD?

And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

Hebrews 9:11–15

THE PRIESTLY SERVICE WITH BLOOD

The centre of the office of the priest is blood. **“Not without blood” (Hebrews 9:7.18).** Then **“without shedding of blood there is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22).** For the sake of the Fall in heaven and on earth (see Isaiah 14:12–17; Ezekiel 28:12–17 and Genesis 3:1–7), **“the heavenly things themselves”** have **“better sacrifices than these. For CHRIST has ... entered ... into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of GOD for us ...”** and it is because **“now o n c e at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (Hebrews 9:23.24.26).** The price of vicariousness is, therefore, the death of the priest and mediator.

A mediator and intermediary must always carry the burden of the one who trusts him *and* the burden of the one who is entrusted to him. This means for the intermediary, always, to die (1 Corinthians 15:31; 2 Timothy 2:11.12), to give his life, acting worthy of his superior, giving satisfaction to him *and* also providing justice to his underlings. The distress of this conflict burst from the depths of Job’s soul when he, in his inexpressible misery and his longing, cried out: **“Nor is there any mediator between us (GOD and Job), who may lay his hand on us both” (Job 9:33).** GOD’s mediator JESUS CHRIST fulfils this need perfectly - and Abigail, as the example of the bride of the mediator.

4. *Abigail* – 1 Samuel 25

Her Vicarious Repentance

Abigail did this in two ways:

1. for her husband to David (verses 24 + 28) and
2. for King David to GOD (verses 26 + 29).

In the middle of the jealous and hate-filled pursuit of David by Saul (compare 1 Samuel 24 and 26), in which the LORD tested David, whether he would “**avenging yourself with your own hand**”, meaning David avenging himself (1 Samuel 25:26) and killing Saul *or* trust in Him and bless his enemy (compare 1 Kings 3:9.11 and 2 Chronicles 1:11), GOD puts this lovely image of the bride of CHRIST through *Abigail*, the wife of the evil and foolish Nabal.

David, with his men, had protected Nabal and his herd in the Maon desert in Judea during the sheep shearing and now asked, when David himself was in need, for provisions for himself and his men, to which he had a legal right (1 Samuel 25:8).

But Nabal scorned David (the GOD-appointed king of Israel) and pretended not to know him.

This was the opportunity for GOD to teach us, based on *Abigail*, what vicarious repentance is, in order to lead us more deeply into joy of belief.

What did *Abigail* do when faced with her husband’s dreadful injustice?

First, she professed: “**on me let this iniquity be!**” (1 Samuel 25:24). She assumed responsibility for her husband’s unjust, pompous, miserly, and harsh speech and actions. She took his guilt onto herself.

Then she asked David, regarding the guilt of her husband: “**Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant!**” (1 Samuel 25:28). In this way she vicariously confessed the sin of her foolish husband and vicariously for him asked forgiveness for it.

She did not cover up the sin of her husband. She also did not deny or downplay the sin. She did not inure herself to it, nor did she remain indifferent, but instead, she condemned it, submitting herself to it, appropriating it as her own, and asked for forgiveness for it.

Do you also want to begin to think, react, and pray in this manner?! – Exactly as with *Abigail* the LORD JESUS wants to condemn your sin, first your own sin and then also the sin of the ones entrusted to you.

Whoever evades judgment for his sin, is not able to acquire and experience the joy of vicarious repentance.

Whoever denies the judgment of sin, makes a liar of GOD.

Whoever understates the judgment of sin, is unfit to have his prayers answered.

But, whoever, through belief in the LORD JESUS, condemns the sin, his and of the other, will experience the power of new life. Because to make repentance, in the original Hebrew text, is “to be comforted” (Job 42:5-6) and means to “justify GOD” (Luke 7:29). **“For I acknowledge my transgressions”** and the transgressions of those under my command **“and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight - That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.”** After King David recognised and confessed his personal sins, he also acknowledged Adam’s original sin: **“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.”** And then the HOLY SPIRIT led him into the innermost nature of GOD, that is light and love: **“Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me ... and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow”** (Psalm 51:3–7).

This self-judgment is the prerequisite for empowered prayer service. That is why the following words belong in the holy institution of the Lord’s Supper: **“For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged”** (1 Corinthians 11:31). And in the resurrection chapter 1 Corinthians 15 we read through the HOLY SPIRIT: **“by the boasting in you which I have in CHRIST JESUS our Lord, I die daily”** (Verse 31).

Abigail must have expected that her husband would discover her, or that King David would push her away, she being the wife of such a fool. Her attitude and her actions reveal the dying of the believer, the bride of CHRIST, as a prerequisite to victorious intercessory prayer and actions.

How much freedom and joy would come into so many lives, marriages, families, congregations and missionary works, yes in nations and for Israel, if we recognized what a gift is given us in our LORD JESUS, which is a heart for intercession! Because we would take on this priestly disposition, like our heavenly Groom did! We would pour out the love of GOD, shed abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5) for our entrusted to us before the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16)! O, LORD, fulfil this in us!!!

How did *Abigail* come to behave in so kingly-priestly a manner? In **1 Samuel 25:28 and 30** we read that *Abigail* knew of GOD's plan for David. How? From His prophetic word: **"For the Lord will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the Lord ... when the Lord has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel ..."**

Her holy attitude and actions came out of her inner relationship with the GOD of Israel, Whose word she knew, Whose prophetic word of the covenant with King David with which she was acquainted. (**1 Samuel 13:14; 15:28** compare 2 Samuel 7:8 – 17; Psalm 89; Isaiah 9:6; 16:5; 55:3; Amos 9:11; Zachariah 12:8; Matthew 1:1; 12:23; 21:9; 22:43 – 45; Luke 1:32; 2:11; John 7:42; Acts 15:16; Revelation 5:5; 22:16!). This is why she could correctly assess the situation and so bravely step in for her husband before David and for King David before the great *David* (**Ezekiel 34:23–24; 37:24–25; Hosea 3:5; Jeremiah 23:4–6**). Therefore she saw with open eyes, she hurried, prepared an abundance of gifts, submitted, made progress, acted prudently, wisely, hurriedly, nobly and looking ahead (1 Samuel 25:18 – 23).

What GOD had prepared for them, who seek Him in His word, who yearn for His communion! For *it*, He created you, chose you and paid the highest price on earth and in heaven. He waits for you to seek Him in word and prayer.

It is His prophetic word that wakes the first love in you! That is why, through the apostle Peter, He reminds us: **"And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts"** (2 Peter 1:19).

He fulfilled this for *Abigail*. Through the word of GOD, the prophetic word, she was led to repentance, to vicarious repentance for her husband.

Does not the book of **Joshua** show especially – in conjunction with the letters to the **Ephesians** – with the taking possession of the land of Israel 3500 years ago, the wonderful truth of the sanctification, which is an ever deeper repentance – to cross over the Jordan of death – for the believers, which the HOLY SPIRIT showed them through the word of GOD. It is not at all true that GOD’S blessings and curses in **Deuteronomy 28–29** can be cancelled, rather in fact they are fulfilled in the LORD JESUS, and whoever loves Him will also be obedient to Him – apart from the commandments, that were exclusively for Israel, like the Sabbath law, which is the only one of the 10 commandments that is not repeated in the New Testament, but rather mentioned as fulfilled through belief (compare Hebrews 4; Romans 14 + 15; esp. 14:5). The Jewish system, “**this fold**” (**John 10:16**) in fact is dismissed (**Hebrews 8:13; 10:9**), “**Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ**” (**Romans 7:4**), but the holy will of GOD must become fulfilled in the born again through the HOLY SPIRIT, if he wishes to stand under GOD’S blessing. “**He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me ... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word ...**” (**John 14:21.23**).

The history of the world is a fulfilment of the words that the holy will of GOD reveals. The judgment and blessings of a people depended and still depend always on their obedience. (Proverbs 29:18; Genesis 12:3!). Similarly, it is in the life of the individual; *but especially in the life of the believer*, because GOD’S judgment begins in His house (Luke 23:31; 1 Peter 4:17). How many intellectually confused, mentally ill, nerve-shattered people (**Deuteronomy 28:28**), how many drug addicts or alcoholics, how many under a “curse,” how many give in to the temptations of body, mind and soul (Romans 1:18–32), because they or their ancestors did exactly that, which GOD, out of love, forbade them to do. Whoever ignores a red light or a stop sign must reckon with the logical consequences. It is even more so with far-reaching consequences in your inner life. Because out of the spiritual adultery (superstition, esotericism) comes the moral adultery, hence violence, that we see so drastically when we read **Judges** and how consistently and priestly it is described in **Hosea**. For

“the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good ... For we know that the law is spiritual” (Romans 7:12.14; compare Psalm 19 and 119).

But, because our Great High Priest gave Himself *vicariously* for us and that already anticipated in His baptism and in Gethsemane, we also, as kings and priests, can and should *vicariously* succumb.

In which wonderful freedom leads us the truth (John 8:30–32), show us the promises that are fulfilled *on* the cross and *through* the cross (2 Corinthians 1:20), that, through belief, we are allowed to take in and experience, also for those entrusted to us.

CHRIST became for us **sin**, so that we would be righteous.

Where sin was, **grace** comes. Romans 5:20

CHRIST became for us a **curse**, so that we are blessed.

Where curse was, **blessing** comes. Galatians 3:13.14

Surely, some must reap the bitter consequences of the seeds of their sin, according to GOD’S righteous ways. Faithlessness and sowing to the flesh always bring curse and sorrow (Galatians 6:7–8). But, he who submits to GOD’S righteous judgement, experiences the power of CHRIST’S blood in transformation into the image of JESUS. King David, although he had to suffer the death of his son by Uriah’s wife and a life-long war and immorality in his dynasty, became a wonderful image of our LORD JESUS; see Psalm 22 and Psalm 69, many other messianic Psalms – und the prophets! – But various things must be endured for GOD’s glory, as the sorely afflicted psalmist, Asaph, prays: **“Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, For Your name’s sake” (Psalm 79:9).**

In accordance with His grace, GOD forgave David his transgression at the same time as his confession (2 Samuel 12:13). Solomon would be his successor to the throne (2 Samuel 12:24) and whose mother (according to Jewish academics) the author of chapter 31 of the practical bestseller, Proverbs, the 20th book of the 66-book, comprehensive world library, called the Bible.

Whether David's confrontation with Nabal was only about himself and his honour or also about GOD's honour, David wanted to retaliate in order to regain his honour. A spiritual truth carried out carnally, we could say. Compare Romans 8:5–8! Because we can summarise the 2 books of Samuel, 2 books of Kings and the 2 books of Chronicles, respectively, as:

1 + 2 Samuel:	Spirit or flesh
1 + 2 Kings:	Life or death
1 + 2 Chronicles:	GOD's presence or Ichabod

i.e.: "gone is the glory of the LORD."

But here through the account of *Abigail*, the HOLY SPIRIT teaches us to do GOD'S work in GOD's method, or in other words, to do spiritual things in a spiritual way, to do for heaven through that, what comes from heaven. Which means: through the LORD JESUS!!!

Not like we heard on Sunday, 16 October 2011, at 8:35 on Radio Deutschlandfunk from Margot Käßmann, the former bishop of Hanover: according to Numbers 26:33, to form a women's movement, to teach all women from Christianity, from Judaism, from Islam in Africa, Asia and the world over how they can enforce their rights against oppression by men. Here there is, in effect, a tragic damage to be recognised; but it is human-judged and therefore also humanly, politically, emancipatory and feministic handled. So do the carnal-emotional or the Christians-in-name-only understand the Bible as a means of transformation of the community (see *Emerging Church* by McManus, "Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren and *Willow Creek* by Bill Hybels).

Or the oh-so-modern, youthful Christian says, the Bible mentions nothing of folded hands or dress codes in church, or service room, so one could come to Bible study in flip-flops and jeans and, while praying, let the hands hang down or do whatever with them. – This is the origin and growth of pop community.

The carnal, sensual and emotional Christian and also the Christians-in-name-only are deceived: because the fear of GOD is missing, or the person is (still) spiritually dead in sin and cannot understand GOD and His word (1 Corinthians 2:14) and don't recognise what the HOLY SPIRIT obliges (Acts 15:28). They don't

recognise CHRIST, **“such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens” (Hebrews 8:1).** Before Queen Elizabeth of England or King Gustav of Sweden they would surely get up and be well dressed in the event of any reception and behaving appropriately. With our LORD JESUS CHRIST, however, the ruler of this world, Satan, enemy of GOD, blinded their senses, that they would encounter Him and treat Him, the HOLY and ANOINTED, as unworthy. See **2 Corinthians 4:4!**

What a shock came over John, the true follower of the LORD JESUS, the sanctified ‘son of thunder’ and apostle of love, when he saw Him! John fell at His feet as He manifested Himself to him in the SPIRIT (**Revelation 1:17-18**): **“And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.’ ”**

We want to encounter Him in just such a fear of GOD, that through us His presence is appreciated by others!

Then we will also see the need, like *Abigail* did. She stood between the LORD and King David. That is why it was unbearable to her that her husband Nabal insulted and treated the divinely-chosen king of Israel so scornfully. But, it was also unbearable to her that King David would retaliate in such a lowly manner and thereby stain GOD’s kingdom with blood.

That is why she *now* stood, priestly-kingly, in the gap:

1. For her husband Nabal, whose guilt she took onto herself, for whose foolishness she took responsibility and
2. for King David, whom she saved from doing a bloody deed, who would have defiled his calling as GOD’s chosen.

The HOLY SPIRIT, now, teaches us this attitude – today more than ever. That is why He lets us through Bible and prayer recognise, how GOD is in truth, how He reveals Himself to us in CHRIST, and see, first ourselves and then the people and circumstances, the nations, Israel and His worldwide Church, as GOD sees it.

Only then can we rightly repent; this means, justify GOD in all things, which oppose His holy will, so that He can turn again towards us and once again do well, once more withhold judgment; or from judgment, allow new grace to follow.

ATONEMENT AND VICARIOUSNESS

We reiterate once again: We are not going into detail about the *atoning* power of the pure life of the man JESUS of Nazareth, who was sacrificed for us on the cross. This is revealed in **Psalm 22** and explained in particular in Romans. The power *of* the “other Man” and “last Adam” (1 Corinthians 15:47.45) by His standing in *vicariously* for our sins in His bloodshed, in the draining of His life, shows us **Psalm 69**; and explain us all the Letters in the New Testament.

Atonement cannot be performed by a person imprisoned by sin. But, to step in for another, GOD created, chose, and delivered His own for this purpose!

5. Moses and Paul

Vicarious Prayer of Repentance

Whoever prays the vicarious prayer of repentance assumes in faith the priestly disposition of our LORD JESUS, He in you and you in Him. **Daniel 9; Ezra 9; Nehemiah 9** and **Nehemiah 1:6** as well as **Job 1:5** and **1 Samuel 25:24.28** and in the New Testament **Philemon 18** and **1 Peter 1:18,19** show very practical examples and models. They make themselves one with the thrice holy GOD*, leaning upon the ten commandments, the holy will of GOD in **Exodus 20:4-5**, because **“GOD was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:19)**. His followers denounce what distresses Him, but at the same time they make themselves one with the sinner, while they submit vicariously to the sinner's, or respectively, her sins.

With these words, for example: “LORD JESUS, forgive *me* the sins of the faithless, the superstitious, the immoral and the unforgiving of ... my mother, my father, my son, my daughter, my grandson, my granddaughter, my wife, my husband, my uncle, my aunt, my ancestors, both maternal and paternal, unto the third and fourth generation. I submit vicariously to their sins and thank You that You delivered me from the vain way of my life received by tradition from my fathers (1 Peter 1:18-19).

The LORD says it so unmistakably in **Leviticus 26:40**: **“But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me.”** Then **“Behold, it is written before Me: I will not keep silence, but will repay - even repay into their bosom - your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together, says the Lord ... I will measure their former work into their bosom” (Isaiah 65:6,7).**

*Authenticity means oneness (from the Greek: autos hen). To be *one* with our Creator and Redeemer and Consummator, means to be authentic, not naturally, but through the cross.

Moses – Exodus 32:31-32

The intercession of the law giver and leader, *Moses*, for Israel shows wonderfully the priestly SPIRIT of our LORD JESUS when he prays: **“Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin; but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written” (Exodus 32:31 -32).**

Paul – Romans 9:1-3

It is the same with the faith of the world apostle and Europe missionary *Paul*. **“I tell the truth in CHRIST I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the HOLY SPIRIT, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from CHRIST for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh” (Romans 9:1-3).**

Fritz von Bodelschwingh

Pastor Bodelschwingh, the leader of the eponymous Bethel Institution, remembers after a Good Friday sermon in his sermon on Cantata Sunday (“The New Song” according to Isaiah 55), especially the people blinded by national socialism, whose hopes were all shattered after the harrowing defeat in the Second World War: “We currently experience, with shock, how the violence of facts overturned an entire people’s thinking. We live to see that some must learn, through much pain, to burn what they until now worshipped. We don’t want to proudly stand beside them. We bow under the load of collective guilt that we all must bear.

The Church belongs, first and foremost, to the ungodly groups, who need conversion to the LORD. The Church must learn a new calling and quest. It must be prepared to allow itself to have completely new thoughts. Only GOD Himself can do this.

It is counted among the biggest miracles when He frees us from our own past, also the apparently devout past, and makes us willing,

through His judgment, to go a new way as followers of JESUS.

But, such profound change in the Church of GOD takes place only without struggle and without failure when the Church now - yes, right now - believes in the mercy of GOD.

The deeper we bow down, the clearer chimes the promise of the prophet: 'For with the LORD there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption' (Psalm 130:7)".

From "GEPRAEGT VON LIEBE" the life of Fritz von Bodelschwingh by Lotte Bormuth, page 92.

Bundeskanzler Willy Brandt

In this context we also refer to the former German chancellor Willy Brandt, who in 1973, more than a quarter of a century after the end of the Holocaust, made the first state visit to Israel and there on the 7th of June and was received at the Tel Aviv airport by his counterpart, Golda Meir. On this, his first official visit to Israel, a visit to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, was the first item on the agenda. –

Also, his genuflection in front of the Warsaw Ghetto memorial in 1970 makes apparent in the political area what was practiced previously in the congregation of JESUS: *"I ask, as one who did not belong in any way to the supporters of Hitler, that I may say, I ask forgiveness for my people."*

6. “*GOD is Love.*” – 1 John 4:16 “*In His Image*” – Genesis 1:27

The doctrine of vicariousness, and therefore the related vicarious repentance, exists and is valid because GOD manifested Himself in it to us in the Holy Scriptures, and in fact always in the context of a relationship or a special natural or spiritual connection. For GOD “**has made from *one* blood every nation of men**” (Acts 17:26), that is to say, from Adam’s blood, so that each person owes every other person love, caring, and friendship (Luke 10:36). The honour of responsibility for each other comes from our image of GOD, in the natural sense and much more so in the spiritual sense.

The central theme of the Holy Scripture is vicariousness. Without it we would be forever lost. Because “**just as through *o n e* man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned ... Because death reigned from Adam to Moses, *even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him Who was to come***” (Romans 5:12.14), *so* had GOD created man as one entity, which makes man responsible not just only for himself, but, *naturally* for his fellow men too -- be they in his immediate or extended family or also in the neighbourhood, in the workplace, in the town, in his nation -- and *spiritually*, for his brothers and sisters in faith in the local congregation and worldwide.

How today, on the one hand, through a lack of security in the family, a striking number of (young) people are no longer ready to take on responsibility -- we found this out in 3 years of service in the national church and in 15 years in the mission field – also, on the other hand, there was often a lack of loyalty toward the parents, the spouse, or the church. Unhealthy individualism defines our society and community because the believers no longer know the LORD and His power of vicariousness.

The doctrine of vicariousness we recognise from the first pages of the Bible on. After the Fall, Adam and Eve and their descendants could only have community with GOD through the representative (i.e. vicariously - Genesis 3:21; 4:4; 5:3; 8:20 etc.). Why?

In the foundation of marriage *before* the Fall (Genesis 2:23-25) GOD reveals the reason and cause for the doctrine of vicariousness.

It is the nature of GOD Himself that He reveals Himself *in the unity of holy love* in three persons: GOD, the Father, GOD, the Son, GOD, the HOLY SPIRIT. This unity of holy love reflects itself in turn in marriage. But, GOD Himself takes marriage as an image of the intimate unity, that exists between CHRIST and His Church through the HOLY SPIRIT (Ephesians 5:32).

For the sake of this unity, it is just and appropriate in GOD's eyes, to attribute and to take into account to us, what the LORD JESUS did and suffered, as if we ourselves had done it and suffered it. This unity the LORD JESUS obtained on the cross, **“who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24). “For CHRIST also suffered once for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to GOD” (1 Peter 3:18).** The unenlightened mind rejects this. “What does this have to do with righteousness?” he asks. “Why should the righteous suffer for the unrighteous?” “How does this show godly justice?” But, the Scripture answers: **“the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).**

This **transmission of guilt and punishment** (in Hebrew the same word: *avon* אָוֹן), carried out through godly decree, is the foundation of our Christian faith.

This principle also applies in natural life. The back must suffer the punishment for what the hand stole or the mouth sinned. – Parents are liable for what their children do. – The company steps in when an employee fails. – What a people have done, the government or community must compensate (compare the **Barmen Declaration of 1934** a. o.). The transmission of punishment belongs to the laws of life.

In accordance with the divine principle, that all visible things and ordinances are images and witnesses for the heavenly, GOD says in **Exodus 20:5**, that He would do precisely this, *transfer the punishment*, whilst He would be **“visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.”** At this point, it plays no role that the children were also

sinner who followed in the sinful ways of their fathers, for no injustice may happen to the worst sinner. As a result, the sins of their fathers must be taken into account by the children, if they were punished for the sins of their fathers. Therefore, it is not unjust when someone is punished for the sins of another.

During the Babylonian captivity, the sins of the fathers – especially those of the sinner **Manasseh** – were visited on the children. Although GOD gave awakening in the time of Josiah because **Josiah** repented and responded to GOD's word and because GOD blesses unto the thousandth generation, **“the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh”** the son of the pious King of awakening, **Hezekiah**, **“had provoked Him”** (**2 Kings 23:26–27**), and banished His people Israel to 70 years in Babylonian exile.

The prophet **Jeremiah**, who foreshadowed the lamb of GOD in his suffering for his people – **“the LORD gave me knowledge of it, and I know it; for You showed me their doings. But I was like a docile lamb brought to the slaughter”** (**Jeremiah 11:18-19**) – submits vicariously and lamented it to the LORD (whereby he did not accuse the fathers!): **“Our fathers sinned and are no more, But we bear their iniquities”** (**Lamentations 5:7**).

That is why GOD encourages the pastors and every Christian, for himself and for those entrusted to him, to surrender himself also to the sins of our forefathers unto the third and fourth generation. This has nothing to do with praying for the dead, which the LORD counts as abominations (**Deuteronomy 18:9–12**). This also has nothing to do with the fact that each person must repent for himself. Because Nabal did not submit, he had to die. But the vicarious repentance for the sins of dead fathers shows the same disposition, that He reveals with *Abigail*: out of love be responsible for the guilt of the other. Then GOD's SPIRIT can make GOD's work at Calvary effective. Righteousness, peace, blessings, reward, and joy were the results of her actions (**1 Samuel 25:32-42**).

Also, the LORD JESUS Himself knows of the righteousness of His heavenly Father, that lays the punishment on following generations: **“that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between**

the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation” (Luke 11:50-51; Matthew 23:35; 2 Chronicles 24:15 and 20-22; 2 Chronicles 36:16).

So also, in 4000 BC, **Canaan** was damned for the sin of his father **Ham** (Genesis 9:25). Later, **Judah** was the representative (ie. he stood in vicariously) for Benjamin in front of his father **Jacob** (Genesis 43:8-10). In 1000 BC seven sons of **Saul** had to die because of the murderous cruelty of their father (2 Samuel 21:9-14). It was on account of **David**’s sin that seventy thousand men perished: **“Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done?”** he said (2 Samuel 24:15-17). The same applies for all children and minors who perished in the destruction of **Sodom and Gomorrah** about 2000 BC. See also **Genesis 19:19-29!**

Because GOD is not unjust, we can only say that the transmission of sin from one person to another, who is then punished for it, is right and proper.

Also, the divine righteousness punishes no one arbitrarily and without reason for the sins of another. Between these, who sinned, and those, the ones who are punished, a special connection or relationship must exist. Otherwise no transmission can take place.

As an example we can cite the relationship between parents and children or also that between a king and his subjects, like in the case of David. The sinners and the ones who were punished in their place were treated like a body, on which a limb rightfully suffers for the sins of another.

To make possible the transmission of the punishment of sin from one to the other, the concerned parties must also have the same concerns or issues. A Biblical example can be found in **Numbers 14:32-33**. It was in the interest of both, the fathers and the children, to enter the Promised Land. But, the faithlessness of the fathers was the reason that both, fathers and children, and even Joshua and Caleb, the exemplary men of faith, had to wander for forty years in the desert.

Because, now, *for the sake of the unity*, that the LORD JESUS obtained for us on the cross, abolishing all hatred (Ephesians 2:14), the divine principle of transmission of sin and punishment is in force, this godly justice is in accordance with the precious truth of the vicarious repentance, too. Just this disposition gives authority to our intercessory prayer (Psalm 66:18; Proverb 28:9).

7. *Job, David, Daniel,* *Ezra, Nehemiah*

The vicarious sacrifice, indicating the LORD JESUS, has been typically experienced by *mankind* since Abel's sacrifice (Genesis 4:4; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12; Isaiah 61:10 and 64:5) and by *Israel* since Abraham (**Genesis 22:8.18**), shown especially in the laws of sacrificial offerings in **Leviticus**. All these vicarious sacrifices pointed to the centre of the world's history and in heaven: **THE REPRESENTATIVE JESUS CHRIST, THE INNOCENT LAMB OF GOD (Isaiah 53 and Revelation 5:6)**. He was sacrifice and priest at the same time.

Indeed, no person can *carry away* or atone for the sins of another. But, the LORD made all His believers to kings and priests (Revelation 1:6 and 5:10). In the manner of His disposition to repent vicariously, that is to justify GOD, they shall bring the people to GOD and carry out His mercy on them (2 Chronicles 25:4; Deuteronomy 24:16). Service and sacrifice, humbleness and grace son He in us!

That is why the following people prayed vicariously for the ones who were entrusted to them:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| - Abraham (Genesis 18:22-33; 19:27) | for his nephew Lot |
| - Job (1:5) | for his children |
| - Moses (Exodus 32:32) | for his people |
| - David (Psalms) | for his people and his enemies |
| - Abigail (1. Samuel 25:24.28) | for her husband |
| - Daniel (9:1-20) | for his people and his family |
| - Ezra (9:5-15) | for his people |
| - Nehemiah (1:6-11; 9:6-37) | for his people and his family |
| - Paul (Römer 9,1-3) | for his kinsmen in Israel
according to the flesh. |
| - Paul (Philemon 18) | for Onesimus. |

For our fathers in faith, vicarious repentance was something that they lived in their faith. We think of the well-known China missionary Elisabeth Seiler. As she prayed with a prostitute, she submitted herself to the sins of this woman, who said, comforted: "I never knew that Elisabeth Seiler was such a big sinner."

Or Pastor Andrew Murray, who writes so finely in his book “Life of family in CHRIST”, with a foreword by Elias Schrenk, how, again and again, through vicarious repentance, for example of the father for his child, GOD makes the praying person one with Himself and does great things for the one who is being prayed for.

Job, the patriarch in the time of Abraham, that is 4000 years ago, knew this righteousness of GOD, that hands over the spiritual responsibility for his children to the father, and that has given to the father of the family the office of a family priest. Therefore, it is written from him: **“Job ... sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning and offered burnt offering of them all.”** He took on in faith, foreshadowing the vicarious sacrifice of JESUS, **“according to the number of them all. For Job said, ‘It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed GOD in their hearts.’ Thus Job did regularly”** (Job 1:5).

In the sober, humble disposition of JESUS, *Job* performed vicarious repentance for his sons. He brought GOD the burnt offering. This means, as seen from the New Testament view: He made himself one with Calvary, in order to justify GOD and to know his children under the blessings of GOD. – This affirmation of Calvary was the strength of his victory at all in the hardest test that any person probably had ever endured.

How precious are the words of *Moses*: **“Yet now, if You will forgive their sin - but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written”** (Exodus 32:32)! As well, *Nehemiah’s* prayer: **“let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned”** (Nehemiah 1:6).

How important to GOD vicarious repentance is, we see in GOD’s glorious answer to *Daniel’s* prayer of repentance. The prophet to the nations, *Daniel*, received the most excellent answer of the Old Testament writings about the first and second coming of the LORD

JESUS, that He Himself mentioned in His speech on the Mount of Olives about the Last Age (Matthew 24:15). **Daniel 9** is a particular jewel of vicarious repentance prayer. *Daniel* also recognises and confesses the sins of his forefathers as his own sins, although he was only 18 years old when he was led into captivity in Babylon. He arguably came from a devout home and personally had nothing to do with the sins of his fathers. But, he acknowledged in his prayer as did the other witnesses to the faith, *Ezra* (**Ezra 9**), *Nehemiah* and the *Levites* (**Nehemiah 9**) that the divine righteousness punishes into the third and fourth generations, because it emphasises the unity of the people and the family.

In connection with the regulations of life for the people stands the Law of Moses in **Deuteronomy 24:16** and is explained in **2 Chronicles 25:4** (King Amaziah). No man may punish an innocent for the wrongs of another. – The word from **Ezekiel 18:3** refers not to the truth of vicariousness, but rather to the careless speech of the young, who were mocking the word of GOD; they had to pay for their own sins. – In **Jeremiah 31:29-30** the LORD predicts the future of Israel.

The truth shall make you free (John 8:31-32). But the truth is that some people, today even more, are bound and burdened as a consequence of the sins of their fathers. Yes, our entire people suffer under it, including a large number of believers. The pastor learns to see these spiritual connections. Also psychologists, social workers, lawyers, and doctors are unable to avoid the recognition of these facts. How much less, then, do GOD's people!

GOD hears just not over the sin not confessed. But, whilst we justify GOD, giving Him right, an entire situation and the persons involved can be transformed! This also applies to children born out of wedlock, sired in fornication, before their father and mother married, i.e. publicly according to the laws entered into the holy bond of matrimony.

You, who do pastoral work, surely have also experienced this again and again: “**where sin abounded, grace abounded much more**” (**Romans 5:20**); for “**CHRIST has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us ... that the blessing**

of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in CHRIST JESUS” (Galatians 3:13-14). “But the LORD your GOD turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you” (Deuteronomy 32:5; also compare Nehemiah 13:2; Isaiah 61:7; Joel 2:25). The pearl comes from the wound! What joy, also for Onesimus! And for you!?!

8. *“Put That on My Account.” Philemon 18*

“But if he (Onesimus) has wronged you (Philemon) or owes anything, put that on my (Paul) account.” (Philemon 18). “You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart” (Philemon 12).

GOD’s righteousness and love sustained the victory on the cross of Calvary and carries the victory in us whilst we lift up the cross by faith in our spirit - steadfastly, concretely, and always anew - for all the entrusted to us, that what we pray in the worldwide prayer of our LORD JESUS shall come true (**Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4**):

**“Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.**

**For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen.”**

