Ring of Truth daily devotion

Ring of Truth provides 366 daily 'proofs' that the Bible is consistent throughout from Genesis to Revelation and relevant for our lives today!

5 August

Hosea 14:1-2

"Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God. Your sins have been your downfall! Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to Him: 'Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.'"

This is a 'Ring of Truth' that is found throughout Scripture.

"You may be sure that your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23) was drummed into me as a child by my parents and I have never forgotten it. Why? Because it is true. Our sins do *"find us out"*. Sooner or later we are accountable. Usually it is quite soon after the event; at other times people seem to get away with it but then as we say, 'the truth will out'.

It matters not whether it is King David, King Belshazzar, the Israelites, Judas Iscariot, President Nixon, President Clinton, you or me. We are all accountable before our families, our societies and our laws. But above all, we are held accountable before a righteous and holy God and one day we will be answerable to Him.

Sin is **our** downfall too. It creates a chasm between us and God. We lose that intimate relationship, which we need, long for and were created to enjoy. The enemy tells us we can never get back, that we have blown it permanently. But God says, ***"RETURN."***

Right throughout Scripture, God longs for His people to return to Him. Not because they are sorry for getting caught 'in the mess they are in' but with a contrite heart, admitting selfishness and pride, self-centredness and arrogance, rebellion and wilfulness.

RETURN and confess.

RETURN and ask for forgiveness.

RETURN and ask for mercy - from the only One who can give it.

God's grace is sufficient for *you*. There is nothing that you can ever do, or think, or say, that is beyond God's grace if you seek it. But it comes with a cost. A cost of your pride, a cost of giving up 'your way' and replacing it with a determination to follow Jesus.

God's grace comes to you because on the Cross Jesus paid the price for your sin. He died so that you could ***"return"***. His Cross is the only bridge that can reach from you to God.

Once we return, we find we are able to worship Him in a way that seemed foreign and impossible before. We are able to ***"offer the fruit of our lips"***. Our thanks, our praise and our worshipful devotion.

O how like Israel we are. Loved and chosen by God, but like sheep we wander off on our own. We turn our backs on God and wonder why everything slowly falls apart. The antidote is *return*.

Don't delay, *return* today.