

Confession

The altar of grace is there where two or three gather together in the name of Jesus. So also, when the congregation assembles. During congregation-days and otherwise, when God has enlightened matters, sin and burdens have been put away. When the Lord has cleansed the flock of His pasture across Zion and let the south winds blow, has brought forth green grass and refreshed the wholesome gospel, children have wanted to put away all burden and sin which makes the journey slow. The enemy of souls has noted this. He has circled to the right side trying to entice into a false doctrine of confession which certainly suits human nature as all striving into self-righteousness does. Many a grace child, distressed in the waves of these temptations, has come to ask for advice. The enemy of souls would make one dig into his conscience. This would take one away from the place of a true grace child. He would make it seem as though through confession one would achieve a better peace and greater assurance. Thus, he would drive one away from the grace-child's place unto the road of works. God's congregation is in battle even against this false doctrine with the sword of the Word. Our peace is that peace which our heavenly Lover made with His own blood upon the Cross. Through accepting and believing the living gospel God, the Holy Spirit, has given birth and gives birth to living faith: Sins are forgiven on this earth and before God in heaven. But since the journey upon this earth is dangerous, the children of God have the desire to put away through confession, name sins that are becoming an obstacle to faith, so that we would not become bearers of a dead faith. In the congregations the Spirit teaches clearly through the preached word and through discussions all that is necessary for us. Therefore, it is necessary to hear what "the Spirit says unto the churches." Confession, also, used in its place, is a grace counsel effected by the power of the gospel. But if confession is changed from a grace-privilege to a merit, it will accumulate as riches and will rear a proud, demanding mind; a condition of soul that is under the Law.

Aino Palorant, Paivamies May 1979