Dear Open Door Family,

Have you ever done something that you wish you had not? Have you ever wished that you could undo what you just did? After the heavy rains we've had for the first time since moving into our home 3 years ago, we had water coming into our basement. Our basement is part drive-in garage and the rest laundry room, family room, bedroom, and office. So, when the water started to come through the foundation and into the family room we started serious mop up operations. Then I went into the garage where we have a door into a stairwell that leads to the back yard. What I did next goes in the top 5 of the dumber things I've done. I saw water flowing very rapidly under the door. So, I decided to open the door to see why and discovered 18 inches of water standing in the stairwell, which now had an even greater opportunity to flow much more rapidly into the garage. One of the things about God is that when we do wrong and sinful things, if we come back to Him and Confess what we have done, He forgives us. He does not just clean up the mess and try to make it look acceptable. He makes us brand new sparkling clean.

Psalm 103:8-12 (NIV) The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. [9] He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; [10] he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. [11] For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; [12] as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

I Love God's Grace. Not only am I forgiven, but because of His Grace I'm better than new. I deserved hell and judgment, but God has Forgiven and cleansed me. In his Mercy He does NOT give me what I deserve. What an amazing, truly Awesome God we have. Even when I make wrong choices or say wrong things, He convicts and draws me back so that I can TURN AWAY from my sin and come back to HIM. When I confess, His Grace is applied in wondrous ways.

Life Application Study Bible "East and west can never meet. This is a picture of God's forgiveness: When He forgives our sin, He separates it from us and doesn't even remember it. We need never wallow in the past, for God forgives and forgets. We tend to dredge up the ugly past, but God has wiped our record clean."

PRAYER: Lord, Thank You that You make everything new and clean and fresh. You don't just cover over or clean up the mess I make in my life. You redeem even the wrong sinful things I do and change me and draw me into a deeper more intimate walk with You. Lord, I don't deserve that, but I praise You and Worship You for it.

| Pastor Mark Kieft |
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