**“A Night of Repentance”**

*James 1:25 (NIV) “But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.”*

It is so important to take time to examine our lives with God’s Word. This is how we grow. “A Night of Repentance” is a spiritual exercise allowing God’s Word to show us what stands in the way of becoming more like Christ by using the example of a Jewish celebration, Yom Kippur.

**A little about Yom Kippur or “Day of Atonement”:**

Yom Kippur 2020 (5781 in the Jewish calendar) starts at sunset Sunday, September 27th, and ends at nightfall on Sunday, September 28th.

***But on the tenth day of this seventh month it is the day of atonement; it shall be a holy convocation unto you, and you shall afflict your souls, and you shall bring a fire-offering to the Lord. And you shall do no work on this very day for it is a day of atonement to atone for you before the Lord your God.*** ([Leviticus 23:27-28](http://www.answers.com/topic/leviticus-23))

For Jews, this is a time of honest self-examination, communication with God, and a commitment to become a better person. Yom Kippur is celebrated on the tenth day of Tishri, i.e., ten days after Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year. It marks the ending of ten days consisting of increased levels of prayer, charity and other good deeds, and the seeking of forgiveness from anyone one has harmed, purposely or inadvertently, during the previous year.

Yom Kippur is the holiest and most solemn in Judaism. It is also among the most joyous, as it affords one the opportunity to rectify past wrongs and face the future with a slate wiped clean.

PAG members Judy and Theodis Lewis write, “The Day of Atonement was the most important, special, holy day of the year. It was a day to humble yourself by fasting. The Day of Atonement was designed to answer the question, "How can a sinful man enjoy fellowship with a Holy God?” The answer - because sinful man can't come into the presence of a Holy God, to restore fellowship, sin had to be covered. When atonement was made, every sin, every failure of the past is covered. As Christians we understand that **Jesus is now our sacrifice.**”

The sin question was answered and settled at Calvary when Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay for our sin.

* Romans 3:24-25. He put His blood on the Mercy Seat.
* Hebrews 9:12
* 1 John 1:9.

**REPENTANCE EXERCISE INSTRUCTIONS**

1. As you come before the Lord, bring your Bible, pen, paper. Begin by reading Psalm 32 and Psalm 51. Thank God for His love and ask the Holy Spirit to minister to you.

2. Ask God to bring to mind any sins He wants you to confess. Pray Psalm 139:23. As God brings sins to mind, write them down on the paper provided for you.

3. The third step is confession. When you feel your list is complete, pray carefully through the list, confessing and renouncing each sin. In 1 John 1:9, God assures us if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

4. When you have prayed over every item on the list confessing every sin, there is one more step. Take your sheet of paper, listing all the sins you have confessed, turn the paper sideways and write across the list in bold letters the promise of 1 John 1:9, “I’m Forgiven!”.

5. Thank God that every sin is now confessed and forgiven.

6. When you are done, take the list and tear it up and destroy it.

Ask God to bring to mind any sins He wants you to confess. Pray Psalm 139:23. As God brings sins to mind, write them down and make a list.

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