

**Romans 5:15** “For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.”

I will never forget the worst case of chapped lips I ever had. I was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and my private school was rehearsing a production of Psalty the Singing Songbook. If you are unfamiliar with Psalty, he was a big book of hymns and songs that taught children about Jesus and the Bible. It was very big in the 1980’s. Everyday afterschool I would have to go to rehearsal to be part of this production.

I will never forget how bad my lips hurt. They hurt so bad I was having trouble remembering what I was supposed to be doing. I had a red ring around my lips and torrid dry skin. I couldn’t stop licking my lips and every time I did, my lips hurt even worse. Finally, my mom noticed and put lip balm on my mouth and after a few days I was all healed up. If I had known about the healing properties of lip balm, or even better brought my issue to my mother’s attention, I would have avoided all the discomfort and pain all together.

The same goes in our spiritual walk with Christ. We find ourselves in pain or discomfort due to sin and/or poor choices and instead of going to God in repentance we refuse to expose ourselves before him and continue in the pain of our shortcomings.

So often we have the wrong perspective of our God. God does not want us to remain in pain due to our mistakes, he wants to heal us, restore us and set us free from our self-inflicted pain. God wants us to be free to worship him, live a life of abundance and share with others how Jesus set us free.

While this is a simple message, it is an important one. We must stop carrying the burdens of our sins and cast them on Jesus.

Let’s keep this in thought and prayer this week.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric