

## 6. Beware the Road of no Return

In Nehemiah 9:32–37 the corporate prayer of repentance offered by the Jews now comes to the only petition: that God will have mercy and not think lightly of their hardships. But first they remind God that He is a covenant-keeping God, and then they acknowledge that He has always acted justly and been faithful to them. Next they confess their sin to Him in the words "we did wrong." I once heard a famous American preacher claim that "the three hardest words to say in the entire world are 'I was wrong'." Yet here the Jewish people are saying just that: "we were wrong." True repentance always involves an admission of wrongdoing -- without excuses.

If we try to excuse ourselves by admitting, "Lord, I know I was wrong in doing this, but I was a little unbalanced at the time because of all the pressures on me," we are not truly repenting. Repentance offers no excuses, indulges in no prevarications or rationalizations. We live in a day when people are quick to excuse themselves for their unacceptable behavior by pleading: "I've been hurt too so you can't expect me to behave properly under such circumstances. It's my parents fault because they gave me a negative self-image. You can't blame me for the way I act."

Whatever you do, don't adopt this attitude when you come to God. Every one of us is culpable before Him. We have sinned because we like sinning. We have hurt Him because we wanted to hurt Him. So let there be no excuses when we seek forgiveness from Him. Say those three little words -- "I was wrong" -- and cleansing will come hard on the heels of your confession.

- *Adapted from "Every Day for Jesus" by Selwyn Hughes*

### Beware the Road of no Return Daily Quiet Times

Date	Week 6
25-Jun	Deuteronomy 3:26
26-Jun	Isaiah 1:19-20
27-Jun	Philippians 4:11
28-Jun	Ephesians 5:15-17
29-Jun	1 Peter 2:7-8
30-Jun	Romans 5:18-19
1-Jul	Titus 3:3-5

# Beware the Road of no Return

## PART 1

### Passage(s) to Study

We need to be very grateful that God has and will forgive us. We need to learn the lessons of our lives and what the consequences of sin can teach us. God, by His Spirit, is creating Godly character in us by those lessons.

**Read:** 2 Sam. 11, 12:1–23 and Psalms 51. Write down 5-10 observations that you make about David's circumstances and how he responded to them. How did he try to cover his sin? What were the consequences from it? What are the characteristics of David's prayer in Pss. 51? Does he make any excuses at all for his sin when he repents?

## PART 2

### Questions to Ponder

**[Q]** To truly repent is to accept the consequences of our sin. In 2 Corinthians 7 Paul writes about the attributes of Godly sorrow the Corinthian church was displaying.

**Read:** 2 Co. 7:10-11 and take note of the differences between 'worldly' and 'godly' sorrow and the fruit that each one produces in our lives.

**[Q]** Read Galatians 6:1-10. From v. 6 what is the principle of sowing and reaping? Do you think it is important for us to understand that even though God forgives our sin completely that there may still be consequences for our actions? Why or why not?

**[Q]** As we live our lives as Christians, still not perfect, we are continually faced with overcoming sin but the love of God for us is truly great. Read Hebrews 4:16. Summarize in your own words the assurance we have in coming to God.

**For further study:** To help you consider the consequences of sin, take a look at Deuteronomy 27-28, 30. Then, spend time meditating on those passages, then record any observations or insights about the blessings for obedience and the curses for disobedience. Summarize Dt. 30:11-20 in your own words.

## PART 3

### Making it Stick

**Write out 1-2 of the main things that God impressed upon you this week from your time reading the daily devotions on Beware the Road of No Return.**

**Write out in your own words a prayer to God asking him for an acute awareness of the road of no return. A sample has been provided below:**

**Prayer:** *O God, help me to take this truth -- that confession of sin must contain no excuses for sin -- and apply it to my life the next time I need to repent. Help me also to willingly accept the consequences of my sin and build Christlike character in my through them. I ask this in the precious Name of Jesus. Amen.*

### Recommended resources:

*'A Repentant Heart'* by Dudley Delffs

*'Gospel Reconciliation'* by Jeremiah Burroughs