

**OPEN HEARTS, OPEN HEAVENS
BROKENNESS OVER...OUR SELF-
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**Moving from Self-Righteousness to a Humble
Repentance Before God and Others**

October 4, 2009

SW503

INTRODUCTION

In Your Bible:

Luke 18:9-14

(Page 1038 in the Pew Bible)

Our Message Series:

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN HEAVENS

Preparing the Way for What God Has in Store By Inviting Him to
Break Open Our Hearts and to Break Open His Heavens

Three Key Truths:

1. Our God is a God of Open Heavens!
2. For Us to Experience the Full Blessings of Open Heavens, We Must Have Open Hearts.
3. Open Hearts Come from Broken Hearts!

Matthew 5:4

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Psalm 51:16-17

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart**, O God, you will not despise.

Key Point:

Brokenness may involve grieving, mourning, sorrowing, weeping, lamenting, acknowledging to God that all is not right at the present time, but—when God is at work in Christ—from Broken Hearts come Open Hearts and from Open Hearts come Open Heavens!

I. WE ALL STRUGGLE WITH SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

II. JESUS WANTS TO BREAK OUR HEARTS OF SUCH SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

In Your Bible:

Romans 1:18

Romans 1:26-31

Romans 2:1

(Pages 1112-1113 in the Pew Bible)

Romans 2:1 (The Message)

Those people are on a dark spiral downward. But if you think that leaves you on the high ground where you can point your finger at others, think again. Every time you criticize someone, you condemn yourself. It takes one to know one. Judgmental criticism of others is a well-known way of escaping detection in your own crimes and misdemeanors.

III. WHY WE NEED TO BE BROKEN OF SUCH SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. We Aren't _____ Enough

Matthew 5:48

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Romans 2:2-4 (The Message)

But God isn't so easily diverted. He sees right through all such smoke screens and holds you to what you've done. 3 You didn't think, did you, that just by pointing your finger at others you would distract God from seeing all your misdoings and from coming down on you hard? 4 Or did you think that because he's such a nice God, he'd let you off the hook? Better think this one through from the beginning. God is kind, but he's not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change.

B. We Don't _____ Enough

IV. WHY OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS US TO BE BROKEN OF SUCH SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS