

Fresh Start

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Mt. Pilatus

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Note: This is the second in a series of Fresh Start pieces inspired by a recent trip to Europe.

Until a recent trip to Switzerland, I had never heard of Mt. Pilatus. Its peak towers nearly 7,000 feet over Lucerne. Our ride to the top was breathtaking. But what fascinated many in our group was learning that Pilatus is named after Pontius Pilate. We wondered why the Roman Governor or Prefect of Judaea who washed his hands when sentencing Jesus Christ to be crucified would have a Swiss mountain named after him.

A Google search back home revealed that legend has it (with absolutely no substantiation) that Pilate's remains were laid to rest atop Pilatus and that every Good Friday his ghost rises from a tiny lake to wash his hands of the blood of Christ. The story reminded me of how we are often guilty of a similar futility of our own. We continue to see in ourselves the sin that has already been washed away by the blood of Jesus, despite what Paul tells us in Romans: *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death."* Romans 8:1-2

All sins are forgiven; past, present and future. But when we do stumble, the enemy is quick to use regret and guilt to plant seeds of doubt in us. The thoughts often sound something like this: "I can't believe I did that! I'm not really saved!" Or "how can I still have thoughts like this, I haven't changed at all." And soon we are pointlessly scrubbing away at the stain of sin that was removed by Jesus on the cross.

Are you carrying the baggage of guilt and regret from something you did in the past? When you accepted Christ, you were freed of that burden. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9. Don't let the enemy rob you of the freedom you received when you accepted Christ. Confess the sin you're carrying around and the burden is lifted.

We can't cleanse ourselves of sin any more than Pilate's fabled ghost can wash the blood of Christ from his hands. When you accept Jesus into your life that job is done for all time.