

## The dreaded pothole

June 26,2022

Have you given much thought about the formation of the dreaded pothole? Probably not. Living in the northwest, these guys can be a significant nuisance. There really is quite a science to the formation of a pothole. There has to be some sort of crack in the primary road surface, most times a very small crack, enough for only a little bit of water to invade. Potholes form mostly in the late winter and early springtime. A small amount of water finds its way to a second or third layer of a roadway. During the winter months this water will freeze, causing an expansion and contraction movement. The base layer has been compromised. As the freeze and thaw cycle repeats many times, the integrity in that particular spot becomes compromised, it become soft. The primary surface eventually opens up, not only opening up, but breaking up. When the primary surface gives way, larger amounts of moisture fill the small crater. Every time a vehicle passes over the open crater that is filled with water, pressure is created, created an effect much like a pressure washer. This added pressure continuously expands the size of the pothole. As we navigate our regular driving routes, we learn where the potholes are located, and try to avoid them. It's not uncommon though, on a drowsy morning drive, to forget about the pothole and hit it with full speed. Some of these holes become large enough to do damage, to blow a tire, or throw your front end out of alignment, both undesirable outcomes. I have a pothole in my driveway that continues to enlarge..... because somebody keeps driving in to it. If only it was avoided it would stop growing. The hole will need to be patched, filled in. It can only be fixed properly if the base layer is repaired, and solidified again. If it is only patched, that spot will become predisposition for failure once again as soon as the rains resume and the pressure is applied.

As silly of an analogy as this might seem, this pothole reminded me of sin. Sin is born only when the base layer has been compromised. James 1:13-15 calls it, "giving in to temptation". The impacts of sin will only increase if repentance is procrastinated. Is it easy to just put a "patch" on sin. Maybe half-hearted repentance. Maybe not really forsaking sin. The base layer can only be compromised if there are cracks in the surface.

Ephesians 4:27 says: "Do not give the devil an opportunity"

Satan will find any crack possible to enter in to a person life and begin to erode the base layer, the Christ centered focus. The pleasures of sin begin small and

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become increasingly attractive. Satan convinces the believer that just a little bit won't hurt. He is crafty, deceitful, and the father of lies. We let our guards down, prayer and the study of Gods word takes second seat, or third, or not at all. It is us who opens our selves up to the influence of Satan.

The impacts of sin are damaging. Often times the damage extends beyond the person committing the actual sin. There is often collateral damage.

1 John 1:9 says: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

This passage of scripture is written to Christians who had been immersed into Christ, whose sins have been put under the blood of Christ.

This scripture doesn't describe just a patch, but a complete remedy.

During this time in our service, we don't remember a surface repair, or a minimal sacrifice. We remember a sacrifice that brings complete healing. The scripture says we can be cleansed from all unrighteousness. Romans 5:10 says that we have been reconciled to God through the death of Jesus Christ.

It is for this reason that we remember Jesus this morning, just as he asked us to do.

We remember this on a weekly basis, and that is not too often, as some will say. We sin on a weekly or daily frequency and trust in His grace and mercy each day.

Its not too much to ask to remember the brutal sacrifice of Jesus that makes the base layer repairs possible, the forgiveness and reconciliation to God.

Let's pray together.

Father in Heaven, thank you so much for this time to just stop and reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Thank you for the gift of salvation and the forgiveness of sin, bless this unleavened bread and fruit of the vine that we remember Jesus with.

In His name we pray, Amen.