

IN THE MARGINS: The solution to every problem you have

By Tony Martin

Editor

I'm preaching to myself this afternoon, and thought I'd let you be part of my one-person congregation.

Here's what is true. *You are carrying a burden that gnaws at your mind and heart.* It's heavy, isn't it? That feeling of something being not quite right, of decisions left unmade or actions not taken. This burden? You know it well because, truth be told, it's self-inflicted. You know what to do but won't do it. It's like knowing the path but refusing to walk it. And I get it. We've all been there.

But here's the thing about this burden – it's corrupting your life, your relationships, everything. It's like a little bit of rust that, left unchecked, weakens the strongest metal. It's not just about you anymore; it's about how this burden spills over into every interaction, every relationship. It might start small, but it has a way of growing, doesn't it?

Now, let's pause for a second. I know this sounds serious but hold on. Here comes the good part. Listen closely. In Christ, you have **nothing to hide**. You see, those things we bury deep inside, those mistakes or regrets we're afraid to face, in Christ, they're out in the open – and yet, we're safe. There's no need to put on a mask, to pretend to be someone you're not.

Nothing to prove. That relentless drive to show the world how capable, how successful, or how unbothered we are? In Christ, that pressure is off. You're already valued, loved, more than you know. It's not about what you do; it's about who you are in Him.

Nothing to fear. This is a big one. Fear can be paralyzing – fear of failure, of rejection, of the unknown. But in Christ, fear loses its grip. It's like stepping out into a storm and realizing you're not alone, and the one who's with you can calm the wind and the waves.

And finally, **nothing to lose.** In a world where we're constantly told to protect our assets, our status, our egos, it's liberating to know that in Christ, what truly matters can't be taken away. It's a security that isn't based on the shifting sands of circumstance but on the solid rock of His love and grace.

So, what's the solution to this burden you're carrying? It's simple, yet profound. *Repent. Obey.* Repentance isn't just about saying sorry; it's about turning around, going a different way. It's about choosing a path that leads to healing and wholeness. And obeying? It's about aligning your steps, your heart, your life with His. It's about taking those steps, even when they're hard.

I just gave you and me the solution to basically every problem we have. He wants to make you whole again. It's not just a nice thought; it's a promise. A promise of a life filled with purpose, peace, and joy. A promise that no matter how far you've strayed, you're never too far from His reach.

So, take a deep breath. Let go of that burden. Step into the light of His love. You've got this, not because of who you are, but because of who He is in you. And remember, in Christ, you truly have nothing to hide, nothing to prove, nothing to fear, and absolutely nothing to lose.