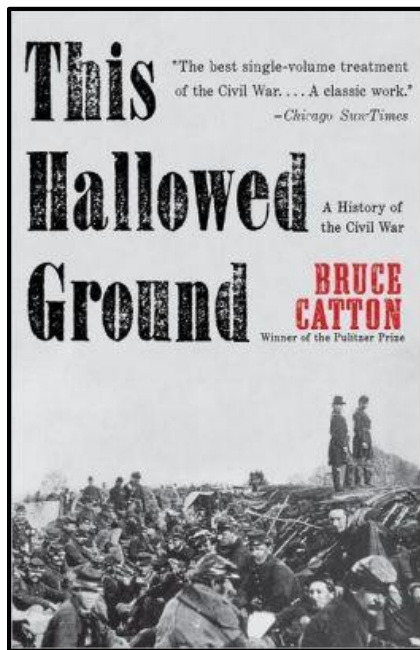


MAKING IT RIGHT

Bruce Catton, a great Civil War historian, wrote numerous well-known books, including *A Stillness at Appomattox*.

In the opinion of former Congressman and U.S. Ambassador Fred J. Eckert, Catton had a wonderful way of dealing with his errors.



Eckert read one of Catton's works, *This Hallowed Ground*, as a high-school sophomore. Moved by it, he sought out other books on the Civil War. As a result, he discovered Catton had made a mistake in *This Hallowed Ground*. He had transposed the names of a first and second officer.

Eckert's teacher encouraged him to write Catton about the mistake. When he did, Catton responded by sending him autographed copies of several of his books, including *This Hallowed Ground*. In it, he wrote: "To Fred Eckert, who caught me napping at Fort Donelson."

Eckert said he learned a valuable lesson from the experience: If you always do your best, you probably won't make too many serious errors. And when do you slip from time to time, the best thing to do is acknowledge it and move on.

Many of us spend a great deal of time and effort to justify or cover our sins and mistakes. The truth is, it is much easier to confess those sins, ask God's forgiveness, seek the forgiveness of others involved, and then move forward.

Human pride hinders us from acknowledging our mistakes. Perhaps that is the reason pride is often considered the chief of all sins. It keeps us from repentance, which cuts off our intimacy with God.

Start your day with a clean slate. Ask the Lord to forgive you of anything left unforgiven. And *accept* His forgiveness. Make amends as necessary. Then press forward to live the life God has called you to do.

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

– Beecher Hunter