

Pastor's Pen

James 4:17 – “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”

Currently, in youth group on Wednesday nights, we are working through the book of James. And although there are many convicting passages and verses, in my book, none of them can touch the conviction found in James 4:17. This verse has kept me up at night, caused me to pause many times, and required me to have tough conversations with fellow believers.

Often we are focused on what is called the “sins of commission.” Meaning these are things that we DO that does not honor or please God. For instance, we tell a lie, hate someone in our heart, or take something that is not ours. A sin of commission is where we choose not to do something or do something that is sin, and we decide to do the sinful thing.

James 4:17 covers the other type of sin that we most often try to bury in our subconscious because the sheer magnitude of possibility can bring intense conviction and repentance. James 4:17 states, “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” This describes the “sin of omission.” The sin of omission is where we are supposed to do something to either obey or honor God, and we fail to do it.

Ponder with me the sheer magnitude of possibilities of sin that this verse unlocks. Do you mean that if I fail to love God with my mind and regularly study His Word, then I could be in sin? Yes. Do you mean that if I am told to trust God with circumstances in my life but instead become a busy body and try to solve this situation in my power, I could be in sin? Yes again. Are you actually saying that if I fail to have patience with my wife or children, I could be in sin? Absolutely yes! Are you starting to get the picture?

Sin is so pervasive and prevalent that if we do not know His Word and what He has told us to do, our lives can be riddled with sins of omission. This even extends to being bold for Jesus in situations where this may be difficult. Luke 9:26 gives the idea that we are not to be ashamed of our savior, but when we fail to speak up about the majesty of God because we are afraid of what people think, then our shame is revealed, and you have failed to do “the right thing.” James 4:17 calls this sin.

So where are you? Are you meditating on the commands of God that Christians should be pursuing or doing but often fail? My encouragement is to consider James 4:17 often and let it be a convicting voice when we face the temptation of inaction.

Pastor Jamie

Quote of the Week

“...presumptuous sins greatly harden the heart”
– Thomas Watson

Grace Gems

Thomas Watson

QUESTION. What is it to sin presumptuously?

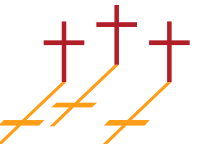
ANSWER. To sin presumptuously is to sin against the light which shines in a man's conscience, when a man is convinced that those things he does are sin. Conscience says, "Oh, do not this great evil!" Conscience, like the cherubim, has a flaming sword in its hand to frighten and deter the sinner—yet he will pluck the forbidden fruit! This is to sin presumptuously. This sin is highly aggravating for two reasons:

First, because sinning presumptuously against conscience—is after counsels, admonitions, and warnings. Such a person cannot say he was never told of his sin; he has had ministers rising up early who have told him what a damnable thing sin was—yet he ventured on. So now he has no excuse. John 15:22, "Now you have no cloak for your sin."

Second, it is an aggravation to sin presumptuously against conscience, when it is after afflictions. After God has made him hear the *voice of the rod*, He has made him to feel sin bitter, to read his sin in his punishment—yet he sins! His sin was following evil company, and God has punished him for it. He has almost wasted his estate with riotous living, or he has almost drunk himself blind—yet he will not leave his sin! His sin was immorality, and his body is diseased and full of noxious humors; yet, though he feels the smart of sin, he retains the love of sin. Here is an aggravation of sin, 2 Chronicles 28:22, "In his time of trouble, King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the Lord."

To know what is good, yet not to do it—is to sin presumptuously. This sin is full of obstinacy and stubbornness. It is so because men can say nothing in excuse for their sin—they can make no defense for themselves—yet they are resolved to hold fast their iniquity like those in Jeremiah 18:12, "We will continue to live as we want to, following our own evil desires."

Take heed of presumptuous sin! If God has been so terrible against sins of infirmity and anger, as we see in Moses and Uzziah—Oh, how fierce will His anger be, against the presumptuous sinner! Better never to have known the ways of God than to know and not to do them! Oh! as you love your souls, take heed of this.



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

Old Testament
New Testament
Young Parents
Young Adults
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
Every other Saturday:
Women of Grace | 9am



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM @ Royall's
Every other Thursday @7PM
@ Patrick's & Cox's



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and forgot to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address.



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study
AWANA @6:30 starting 9/15/21



Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM
Children's Church @10:30AM

Giving from service on 09/26/2021

General Offering	7,113.85
Building Fund	1,236.35
Uganda	630.00
Total	\$8,980.20

Attendance	185
Sunday School	123
Online	16

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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