

Pastor's Pen

The Cost of Sin!

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. Galatians 6:7

As followers of Christ, we know that we have been forgiven of our sins. Not because of anything we have done but because of what Jesus did. What did He do? He appeased the wrath of God by taking the penalty of sin upon Himself. We deserve death and hell, but we now have eternal life with Jesus.

However, this does not mean that we will not struggle with sin. Until the day we die, we will be in a constant struggle with our flesh. Paul wrote to Romans about the struggle, *"For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the working out of the good is not. 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one working it out, but sin which dwells in me (Romans 7:18-20)."* However, thankfully, Paul doesn't leave us with no hope. As he cries out, "wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?" he immediately gives us the answer, "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 7:24)!"

Even though we are forgiven of our sins, there are still consequences. King David learned the hard way that his sin of adultery and murder would plague him his entire life. The prophet Nathan confronted David, and God spoke to David, saying, *"So now, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife (2 Samuel 7:10)."* God loved David, even declaring that he was a man after His own heart.

We must never give up the fight with our flesh John MacArthur writes,

"All of us struggle continually with sinful thoughts, sinful attitudes, sinful habits, and sinful desires. It is those who don't struggle—those who deliberately and eagerly revel in their sin—who need to have their sense of security shaken. So don't give up in defeat if you find yourself struggling with sin or even if you fall into it. Stay in the battle. Fight sin by considering deeply what makes you more vulnerable to it, and then establish godly practices in its place. You may find you need to have accountability with a godly person you trust, or spend more time in prayer, or stay away from things that tempt you. Do whatever it takes to discipline yourself and stop any pattern of sin before it gets started again. That is the key to staying away from sin—the constant, daily practice of thinking on the right things and not making provision for the flesh and its desires (Romans 13:14)."

Christian, we should do everything we can to avoid sin, but when we do sin, we should confess it to the Lord and make no provision for that sin to be repeated.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"I groan daily under a body of sin and corruption. Oh for the time when I shall drop this flesh, and be free from sin!"

- Charles Spurgeon

Grace Gems

The ant's nest!

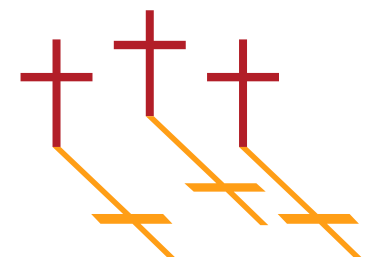
(Thomas Boston, "Human Nature in its Fourfold State")
"The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked! Who really knows how bad it is?" Jeremiah 17:9

Never did any sin appear in the life of the vilest wretch who ever lived—but look into your own corrupt nature, and there you may see the seed and root that sin—and every other sin! There is atheism, idolatry, blasphemy, murder, adultery, and whatever is vile—in your heart! Possibly none of these are apparent to you; but there is more in that unfathomable depth of wickedness than you know.

Your corrupt heart is like an ant's nest, which, while the stone lies on it, none of them appear. But take off the stone, and stir them up but with a straw—and you will see what a swarm is there, and how lively they are! Just such a sight would your heart afford you—did the Lord but withdraw the restraint He has upon it—and allow Satan to stir it up by temptation!

Christian! the remembrance of what you are by nature, should keep you humble.

"For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly." Mark 7:21, 22



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
every other week @ Chambers, Cox's,
Patrick's and beginning 6/23 @ the
Brown'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

Service Times

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

Giving from service on 7/31/2022

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| General Offering | 6,666.73 |
| Building Fund | ..950.60 |
| Uganda | 165.00 |
| Total..... | 7,782.33 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Attendance | 246 |
| Sunday School | 161 |
| Online..... | 25 |

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
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Aug 7, 2022

Welcome