

The

LAMP

Your Word is a Lamp unto my Feet, and a Light for my Path. Psalm 119:105

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Westside Church of Christ  Bloomington, Indiana

After The Fall

There is an error in the Bible. We are taught that the Bible is infallible and without error, nonetheless I have found a mistake. A big mistake.

In 1st Timothy 1:15, Paul says this:

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners- of whom I am the worst.

Did you see it? Paul clearly indicates that *he* is the worst sinner. The truth is, **I** am the worst sinner. Not Paul, not Peter who denied Christ three times, not Martha who failed to recognize the importance of sitting at the feet of the master, not even Barabbas whose lifestyle was the epitome of evil. No, I am far worse than all of these.

There are no justifiable reasons why I should continue taking up space on this planet for one second longer. And yet I do. Why? We are all sinners, as Paul points out in Romans 3:23- *“23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”*

But, in one of the most terrifying scriptures, Paul warns the Hebrews (10:26) that: *“26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left...”*

Mankind is inherently evil. Ecclesiastes 7:20 declares: *“20 Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins.”*

So then, if failure for the saved is inevitable, what can be done? How can we reconcile our predicament with Paul’s warning in Hebrews 10:26?

There are three things that must occur, and the first is the cornerstone: Godly

sorrow. We must recognize that when we sin, we not only sin against God, but we sin against our families, our congregation, and the Church as a whole. This is a *huge* thing and has to be understood if true repentance is to result.

When we find ourselves having fallen, God is heartbroken, and we should be also. Our shame should know no limit, and our soul should tremble in fear.

2nd Corinthians 7:10 says: *“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”*

True Godly sorrow manifests itself by repentance which will result in the receiving of divine grace. Worldly sorrow brings death because, instead of being God centered sorrow over the wickedness of the sin committed, it is a self centered sorrow over the *consequences* of the sin- of getting caught.

In the passage above, Paul goes on to point out to the Corinthians this very concept by bringing to their minds all of the positive changes that resulted from the *genuine* regret over their sinful actions.

Too many people, although their *consciences* have been awakened by their sin, their minds have not been changed and, just as soon as the guilt passes, they return to their former sinful ways. As Proverbs 26:11 says: *“As a dog returns to it’s vomit, so fools repeat their folly.”*

Secondly, we must seek God’s forgiveness. There are many scriptures that tell of the forgiving grace of God. Perhaps you have one or two favorites yourselves. One of my favorites is Psalm 130:3-4 which records a heartfelt plea of David for mercy: *“3 If you, Lord, kept a record*

of sins, who could stand?4 But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.”

It completely mystifies me why God would be so willing to forgive us our most grievous sins simply by *asking* Him to do so. And He does not just *forgive* us, He goes way beyond that. 1st John 1:9 shows us just how far He is willing to go. It says: *“9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”* Not only will He forgive us, He will also *purify* us- **again!!** Grace is indeed a most amazing thing.

Hebrews 6:18 tells us that it is *impossible* for God to lie. 1st Corinthians 1:9 speaks of the faithfulness of God: *“9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Clearly, as impossible and improbable as it may seem, we can count on God’s forgiving Grace. What a comfort that should be for us all!

Thirdly, we must seek the forgiveness of those whom we have sinned against. Sometimes the hurt is so great that this cannot happen until some time has passed – if it can ever happen at all. But it is not just for our sake alone that we must seek this forgiveness, but for the sake of those whom we have sinned against. For their soul is on the line too.

Matthew 6:14-15 bears this out: *“14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

You are never too old or mature or safe from the wiles of the devil.



Tandi's niece, **Ashley Slade**, has had some serious complications from surgery and the family is requesting prayers at this time.

John's cousin, **Penny Abel**, has undergone another radical brain surgery and now has some paralysis on her right side.

Emily Kluesner is in Korea for the next several months.

Please also remember to pray for **Max Horrocks** and **Christopher Gagnon** that they might return to the Lord.

Wilma has the flu.

Alex has had an accident and is in need of our prayers.

Please pray for **John**, who is undergoing one of the hardest times of his life.

Perpetual Prayer List

This month's perpetual prayer list contains a couple of new names. Please be sure to add them to your prayer list. These are people whom we need to remember regularly and often, in addition to those listed above who have new issues and concerns. Please bring the following names before God:

- Alex Chambers
- Mia Cook
- Jack Horrocks
- Max Horrocks
- Bette Oney-Self
- Leroy Provines
- Sharron Smith
- Jeff Whittington
- Ashley Wood

Times are tough, and getting tougher. Let's all join together and make sure that our brethren's needs are being met.

Some might be too embarrassed to ask for help. They shouldn't have to ask— we should know what is going on in the lives of those we love the most.

We serve an awesome God, and He is so good to give us what we ask for so much of the time. Remember that we should praise Him whether he answers our prayers the way we would like or not.

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Jenna Foster 4th
- Mike Holsapple 6th
- Sam Horrocks 9th
- Arthur Brown 15th
- Sarah Wells 29th

Building Cleaning This Month:

Sandy

Communion Prep For April:

Hatti

Verse of the Month:

Isaiah 53:5-6

⁵ But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.
⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

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For Kids Only

Character Traits of a Christian

D I S C I P L I N E D D D M V J N
W P B W M D U J G R K Q D E V A S
M V H C N D F M T N H E L P F U L
P T T T N T Y T E S I C N Z M T Z
R Z R Z P N O K G L T V N B F R N
I N U L C N J E D Y B R I R N E M
A W S K N T N N D R R M O G T S G
F R T Z S T I G L M M R U N R P M
L J I E L K E N L G B G E H G O H
J Q N E P N F Y X N D I T D B N F
G O G M E E V W L N T K R K G S D
H X D R G J A J L A D D L F N I G
V D O C O W X C P T K J D Q I B T
C U K T O W R L E L T N R N V L N
S K Q R D W T L T F P Q F D O E H
Y L U F H T I A F G U V L L L X J
X P V D E P E N D A B L E X N K L

Created Just for the great kids at the Westside Church of Christ

Dependable

Generous

Humble

Peaceful

Disciplined

Gentle

Joyful

Responsible

Fair

Good

Kind

Saved

Faithful

Helpful

Loving

Strong

Forgiving

Honest

Patient

Trusting

Faith and Mustard

Human nature is constantly searching for loopholes—an easy way out. Any way but the hard way will do nicely. Jesus addresses this in Luke 17:5-10: ⁵ *The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"* ⁶ *He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.* ⁷ *"Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'?"* ⁸ *Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'?"* ⁹ *Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?"* ¹⁰ *So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"*

Jesus often used the mustard seed as an illustration of faith's power. In Matthew chapter 17, He chides the Apostles for having not even as much faith as a mustard seed after they had failed to drive out a demon from a young boy. If they did have such faith, He says, they could move mountains.

Verse 10 in the reading above contains the key to increased faith: the word "say." This principle, as does much of Christian living, boils down to one thing—attitude. Christ tells us to do everything possible to be as profitable as this servant (verses 7-8), without expecting any recognition for it (verse 9). Then we can present the sincere, humble attitude: "We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do."

Humanly speaking, the servant could have taken the attitude, "You owe *me!* Didn't I go 'above and beyond'?" Now here is a concept we need to imprint firmly on our minds: There simply is no such thing as "above and beyond" when it comes to our relationship with God. We could never do enough to put God in our debt.

1st Corinthians 4:7 asks: *"What do you have that you did not receive?"* We have no room to boast that we have done anything without God's oversight.

Daniel 4:28-35 reveals in a magnificent way just how sovereign God is: ²⁸ *All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar.* ²⁹ *Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon,* ³⁰ *he said, "Is not this the great*

Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

³¹ *Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you.* ³² *You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes."*

³³ *Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.*

³⁴ *At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified Him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation.* ³⁵ *All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to Him: "What have You done?"*

1st Corinthians 6:20 tells us that we owe God everything, as He has redeemed us by the precious blood of His own Son. Paul commands us not to grow weary but to do good to all (Galatians 6:9-10). James echoes him: *"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).* God has backed us into a corner. We cannot be humble until we learn that we have no room for "above and beyond"?

In both the planning and action stages of either good works or faith, it is *we* who decide how much to give, how far to go, etc. But in hindsight, what good thing have we ever done that qualifies for "above and beyond" our duty to God? Whatever it was, the Scriptures plainly show we were commanded to do it! It was our *duty* because we found it in our power to do it (Proverbs 3:27). We cannot take the attitude that, "We did these good things, so that makes us profitable to God." If we do, we have no basis for faith. Our faith would be in ourselves, not in God.

For Our Guests: What to Expect During Today's Worship Service

Singing

We sing "a cappella" (without any instruments). This may be new to you, and if you are wondering why we do it this way, feel free to ask any of us. We encourage you to join in, even if you don't know the songs. But don't feel *obligated*; you are welcome to just sit and listen.

Lord's Supper

Communion is an important part of our worship *each and every week*. This is a celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. In this simple memorial, we remember the sacrifice He made for our sins.

Offering

The work here at Westside is supported by the free will offerings of our members, as directed in scripture. You are not expected to make a donation, just pass the basket to the person sitting next to you.

Preaching

The sermon will be 30-35 minutes long, and will be grounded on scripture. Should you have any questions about what is taught here, please ask! We love to talk about our awesome God. After the sermon, an invitation will be given for those who desire to be Baptized. At this time, we will stand and sing a song. Please do not feel uncomfortable; you will not be singled out in any way.

Expected of you:

Nothing! We are honored that you chose to be with us today. Please take a minute after services to let us say hello to you!

Welcome to the Westside Church of
Christ!

1301 Enterprise Ln.
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Neil Tremblett, Preacher

812-360-1399

Sunday Morning Bible Study — 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship — 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship — 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 P.M.

You are most welcome— please join us!