

Pastor’s Perspective

Do you suffer from persistent guilt? If so, you have seen your ability to experience the joys of God’s grace be killed in your life. Guilt can paralyze and make us painfully aware of our inadequacies. All believers often commit sin. Therefore we regularly hear the voice of our conscience. Jerry Bridges warns us, “The message of the cross is absent from the signals sent by our guilty conscience; it knows only the law. So all we hear from it is bad news, not good news. In fact, embracing the nagging voice of our conscience instead of silencing it with the gospel is exactly how persistent guilt gets a stronghold on believers.” Many believers’ guilty consciences do not embrace the gospel on the conscience level. Consider the following questions in identifying the enemy of persistent guilt in your life:

1. Are you painfully preoccupied with a particular habitual sin?
2. Are you discouraged or depressed by your failure to measure up?
3. Do you frequently experience anxiety that something’s about to go wrong?
4. Does it appear God can use others but not you?
5. Is there something in your past you just can’t seem to get over?
6. Do you fear that your past will come back to haunt you?
7. Do your difficult circumstances seem like God’s judgment for your sin?
8. Do you steer clear of intimate relationships or small group discussions?
9. When you sin, do you get a vague sense that somehow there’ll be a price to pay?
10. Do you seldom think of the cross?

Once you have identified and labeled guilt as well, guilt; you can then begin the healing process of applying the gospel to your guilt. First, we must not learn to forgive ourselves. Bridges states, “the truth is, our sin is real- we *are* guilty, just like our conscience tells us. And we have no authority or basis for making a self-declaration of forgiveness.” Instead, “only the life and death of Christ offers a legitimate because it was a real, lived-in-the-flesh, finished righteousness, applied to us forever.” That is to say, when the Bible says we are just-i-fied by faith in Christ it really means that it’s “just-as-if we, like Christ himself always obeyed. From that moment we’re united to Christ by faith in the gospel, in God’s own eyes we’re permanently clothed in the very righteousness of Christ.” We can’t forgive ourselves because only God can forgive us.

So, instead of letting our persistent guilt define us, we should apply the gospel to our guilt. Applying the gospel to guilt means that guilt no longer paralyzes us, but it is a healthy reminder of our sin. “Guilt ignores the cross but remembering our sin should drive us to the cross.” Allow that feeling of guilt to remind us of our wonderful Savior and of God’s amazing grace. Use it as a tool, not a curse.

Therefore, the only way to escape the curse and grip of persistent guilt: we must and have to flee to the gospel. There is no shortage of grace there! John Owen pointed to “the *infiniteness of grace*” and asked, “What is our *finite guilt* before it?” “When those old guilt pangs stab at you, thank them for doing you a great service by reminding you afresh that there’s a Deliverer who has already delivered you, a Healer whose stripes have already healed you” (Colossians 1:13-14; Isaiah 53:5).

Quotes taken from: Jerry Bridges, *The Bookends of the Christian Life*. Pg. 53-63.

In Christ,

Richard Owens

News from the Mission Field Dal and Beth Stanton, MTW Sofia Bulgaria

Daughters of Bulgaria Update (Ministry to prostitutes caught in the slave trade):

During Holy Week we initiated two different ‘touches’ reaching out to the girls on the Ring Road. Monday was fruitful – we talked to seven girls, some we knew from before. On Good Friday we returned with DVDs of the Jesus Film, Jesus Film for children and Magdala (based upon the Jesus Film but geared toward Jesus’ relationship with women). We also had some children’s bibles that were given away very quickly! Most of the Daughters have children. We’re discovering that they have a great desire to provide ‘good’ things for their children to read. We will be purchasing more children’s bibles soon to take to the Ring Road! Another answer to prayer: Another Bulgarian believer from the Solunska Church joined our ladies for the first time! We talked with eight Daughters on Good Friday. What better way to celebrate His death and resurrection?? Pray!

Vacation Bible School – HEY PIONEERS! The Gold Rush is ON!!!

Vacation Bible School will begin at **8:30am Monday, June 13th!** Spread the word to any and all children between 4K and 5th grade (completed). They can register online at wpcgreenwood.org or call Debbie at 453-7608. The mining crew is busy planning an exciting week where we will discover the Rock of Ages! We need every hand available to set up for this amazing week. We will set up on Sunday, June 12th, immediately following the covered dish lunch so bring a change of clothes and be ready for fun! We will have a meal provided for all working hands that evening. THANK YOU in advance! The Sunday of set up is always a great time for our church family to work (and laugh often) together! See you on the Sunday, June 12th and tell everyone about GOLD RUSH! Call Allison Pillow with any questions, 392-2363.

Prayer List – Please pray for the following: Neil, Allison and Cole Pillow and family, Bettye Jim Morgan, the Pastor Search Committee, Deb Ray, Guy Robertson (Keith’s father), Patricia Hodges (Channing’s mother), Jane Morgan, Mary Lou Robertson (Mary Elizabeth Makamson’s mother), Louise Fraiser (Johnny Smith’s aunt), Mary Nell Downs, McKee Guenther, Ann Watkins, Georgia Seale (Georgeanne Smith’s mother), John Sharp Pillow, MEM and Bobby Morton, Bettye and Bill Montgomery, JoAnn Woody, Jean and Harris Coleman and our expectant mothers, Suzanne Shaw, Joie Blount and Anne Marie Owens.

Let’s Shower Anne Marie! – Ladies mark your calendars for Saturday morning June 25th for a baby shower honoring Anne Marie Owens and Baby Sophie. Watch your mail for details.

Junior High Summer RYM – The dates for Junior High RYM in Panama City, Florida are **Monday, June 27 through Friday, July 1.**

Richard and Anne Marie Owens are the chaperones. We will leave early Monday morning from the church parking lot. If you have any questions, please call Richard Owens at 299-3313.

Amazing Grace 360 Women In the Church International Conference

- Ladies, it is time for a road trip.

The Women in the Church International Conference has been scheduled for **October 7-9 in Atlanta**. The theme this year is **Whole Gospel-Whole Life-Whole World**. As usual, it will be an extraordinary opportunity to worship, learn and fellowship with 4000 of our sisters. Nancy Guthrie, Brian Habig, Kevin Twit along with countless others will be participating this year.

Conference cost is \$145 for each woman and we need to register before May 31st. We will start working on hotel cost and will be able to have a package price for the entire conference soon.

Traditionally, we have had a large group of women attend from our church from all age groups. Please try to take advantage of this growth opportunity.

If interested, contact Cyndi Savage at 662-299-7976 or the church office (453-7608). Also visit the conference website **amazinggrace360.com**.

Wednesday Night Youth Meals – The youth group wants to thank all who have volunteered to help feed them on Wednesday nights. Those who have volunteered to provide supper for the youth for the month of June are June 1 – Eleanor Braswell, June 8 – Amber Joiner, June 15 – NO YOUTH MEETING – VBS, June 22 – Cyndi Savage and June 29 – Diane Gaillard.

Cooks that Care – We want to thank all who have provided food to those who are in need. If you know of a need or would like to help cook for Cooks That Care, please call Margie Makamson at 453-6434 or 299-2602 or Stevie Pillow at 254-7375 or 254-6472 or 299-0000.

Ushers – We want to thank each member of the usher team that serves the congregation so diligently and faithfully every month.

The June team is Paul and Sister Kosko (Head), Betty Boyd, Charles and Frances Houston, Lee Houston, Bettye Jim Morgan and Eddie and Deb Ray.

The July team is Gary and Kathryn Dyksterhouse (Head), Michael and Cathy Adams, Lou Adams, Rob and Amber Joiner, John and Tracy Patridge, and Alex and Meredith Fletcher.

Flowers – We have 3 Sundays in June open to volunteer to put the flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday. If anyone is interested, please call the church office (453-7608) to volunteer.

Forwarding Addresses

Mr. and Mrs. Harris Coleman
Merrill Gardens
3275 CR 47, Apt. D150
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Robertson
150 Northbridge Drive
Saultillo, MS 38866

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Franks
823 Chardonnay Circle
Brandon, MS 39047

ACTIVITIES FOR JUNE

Wednesday, June 1	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study Children's Bible Study
Sunday, June 5	Communion
Monday, June 7 - Friday, June 10	General Assembly Virginia Beach, VA
Sunday, June 12	COVERED DISH LUNCHEON
Wednesday, June 8	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study Children's Bible Study
Monday, June 13 - Friday, June 17	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Wednesday, June 15	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study Children's Bible Study
Wednesday, June 22	Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study Children's Bible Study
Monday, June 27 - Friday, July 1	Junior High RYM Panama City, FL
Wednesday, June 29	Sr. High Bible Study (6:00 p.m.) Adult Bible Study Children's Bible Study

Happy Birthday Wishes

June 3 – Meredith Coleman Fletcher
June 5 – Mary Nell Downs
June 6 – Anne Marie Owens
June 10 – Marion Boyd
June 15 – Johnny Smith
June 15 – Robert Morgan
June 17 – Margie Makamson
June 20 – Eric Walters
June 21 – Chris Shaw
June 24 – Todd Hall
June 29 – Selena Nause

Happy Anniversary

June 3 – Craig and Jamie Brewer
June 6 – Todd and Stacy Hall
June 14 – Justin and Eleanor Braswell
June 15 – Gary and Kathryn Dyksterhouse
June 16 – Trey and Elizabeth O'Brien
June 17 – Lee and Amy Coleman
June 27 – Paul and Sister Kosko
June 29 – Charles and Frances Houston

Westminster Presbyterian Church
804 East Park Avenue
Greenwood, MS 38930



Westminster Presbyterian Church | Greenwood, Mississippi

June, 2011

Sunday, June 12 – Covered Dish Luncheon & VBS Setup

We invite everyone to stay for the covered dish luncheon immediately following the worship service on June 12. All Sunday school classes will resume the following Sunday, June 19. Immediately following lunch, we will begin setting up for VBS.

Monday, June 13 – Friday, June 17 – Vacation Bible School

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Wednesday, June 22 – Final Payment for all Youth Trips

Richard needs the final payment for Jr. High RYM and GoldRush by June 22.

Saturday, June 25 - Let's Shower Anne Marie!

Ladies mark your calendars for Saturday morning June 25th for a baby shower honoring Anne Marie Owens and Baby Sophie. Watch your mail for details.

Monday, June 27 – Friday July 1 – Jr. High RYM

The dates for Junior High RYM in Panama City, Florida are **Monday, June 27 through Friday, July 1.** Richard and Anne Marie Owens are the chaperones. We will leave early Monday morning from the church parking lot. If you have any questions, please call Richard Owens at 299-3313.

Friday, October 7 – Sunday October 9 - Amazing Grace 360 Women In the Church International Conference - Ladies, it is time for a road trip.

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