

Are You Ashamed?

The Bible teaches that there are some things that we should be ashamed of, and there are other things that we should not be ashamed of. Ezra was ashamed of the sin that Israel had committed against God. He said: "O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens" (Ezra 9:6). David was ashamed of the transgressor. He wrote: "Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause" (Psalm 25:3). Isaiah was ashamed of idolatry. He wrote, "They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye are our gods" (Isaiah 42:17). We should be ashamed of some things.

However, there are other things of which we should not be ashamed. The Psalmist wrote: "Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments." (Psalm 119:6). Paul said: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). He wrote to Timothy: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

The world tries to deny the shame that God has placed within sin. It tries to live with sin and without shame. Such a distortion of God's creation brings shame upon the sinner whether he realizes it or not. However, God does not want us to live in such shame. He gives us His word so that we can live without shame. When we love and obey God, accepting the forgiveness that He offers through Jesus, we have no reason to be ashamed.

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The God of All Comfort

There are many names by which our Heavenly Father is known. There is one name that gives much assurance in times of trials—the God of all comfort. Only God can give comfort to all those who are in times of need and despair. Although some try to find comfort in many other ways, (e.g., alcohol, drugs, work, et al.), the only real comfort anyone can find is through the God of the Universe.

When Paul wrote his second epistle to the Corinthians, he spoke of the comfort that can be found only in God: "Blessed by God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4). Paul and the other apostles could find comfort in God. They would look to Him in times of need and draw off of the knowledge that He cared for them during their struggles of life. He also told the brethren they could have the same assurance of being comforted by God in their hour of trial and suffering in this life.

We can have the same comfort that comes only from God when we look into His word and draw out the timeless treasures of comfort that are contained therein. When life's cares and worries get us down, to whom should we look? Instead of turning to the television, psychologists, talk shows, or any other man-made device; why not turn to God, who is the source of comfort? Why not do as Peter instructed the first century Christians to do: "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7). As one digs into the Word of God one can truly cast one's cares upon God by bringing themselves to humble obedience to His Will. Then God, through His Comforting Word, will take your burdens away.

One can find comfort in the fact that they are going to be resurrected to a glorious state after this life. The Thessalonian brethren were confused about their departed loved ones and were looking for comfort. Paul wrote to them and explained how that their departed loved ones, who had obeyed the Gospel, were going to be the first ones resurrected, and then the saints who were alive (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). At the end of this discourse he wrote, "Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (4:18). The Thessalonians were to draw comfort from the Word of God in their hour of need.

If one is looking for comfort, one must turn to the God of all comfort in order to receive the greatest comfort of all—Divine comfort from His Word. In the Bible one can learn of God and His plan for saving mankind. One can learn of Heaven and how to get there. May we all turn our thoughts to the God of all comfort at our time of need.

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey
Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
 Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney
Pulpit Minister Eric Welch
Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "Who is a Christian?" Acts 11:19-26

Sunday Evening: "David's Other Sin" 2 Samuel 24

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
 Opening Prayer Jerry Casey
 Scripture Hank Tincher
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Lord's Supper
 Message Clint Smith Jr
 Attendant Marc Owens
 Attendant Ethan Welch
 Closing Prayer Irvin Williams

PM Service

Song Leader Matt Johnson
 Bible Reading Greg Blanton
 Selection 19
 Prayer Grover Blanton
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Closing Prayer Leon Stocksdale
*If you are unable to serve, please
 call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
 or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Robby Stocksdale
 Lord's Supper Joe Sweeney
 Offering Harold Tincher
 Usher Brandon Montgomery
 Count Offering Harold Tincher
 Assist Count Hank Tincher

Last Sunday

Contribution \$2,474
 Attendance 97

Irresistible Grace

Eric Welch

Irresistible grace is the fourth tenet of Calvinism. It is the logical conclusion of total depravity and unconditional election. If sinners cannot believe and repent on their own in response to the gospel, God must give them the gift of faith and repentance. This gift He gives only to those He has chosen beforehand and only when the Holy Spirit acts directly on the sinner's heart. God, therefore, would not allow it to be resisted.

This doctrine portrays God as contradictory in His nature. He wants all men to be saved (2 Timothy 4:2; 2 Peter 3:9, but He then predestines some to be lost? Doug Burleson correctly observes, "if God causes some to be irresistibly drawn to Him, then He, in effect, also causes some to be irresistibly cast away from Him" ("Irresistible Grace." Gospel Advocate, June 2009, page 23). Stephen told his hostile audience, "*You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.*" (Act 7:51). They demonstrated it by stoning him to death. They resisted the Holy Spirit, the very one that supposedly works on the heart. According to Calvinism, God also put it in their heart to resist Him. Indeed, this doctrine denies the infinite goodness, justice and impartiality of God.

The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, the gospel, has the power to draw those who hear (Romans 1:16; John 12.32). However, this power can be resisted. The Holy Spirit does work upon the heart and influence us, but he does so indirectly through the Word. When I respond to that Word through faith that leads to repentance and baptism, only then does the Spirit give me new life (John 3:3, 5; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:4). Burleson again notes that if faith is not voluntary, then "why does God have to wait with patience for all to 'come to repentance' (2 Peter 3:9, 15)? Could not God just go ahead and give the mysterious 'internal call' to the elect and judge the rest of an unfortunate humanity?" Great question?

Grace has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11), but many will resist it.

All Is Gain

No trouble, no sorrow, no sadness nor pain

Belong to the riches of Christ—all is gain;

The blessings of God carry no ill effect,

For they come from heaven, undiluted, direct.

"The blessing from the Lord makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow to it"

Proverbs 10.22

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The next Monday Night for the Master group meeting is Monday May 18th at 6:00 pm. We are having grilled burgers with all the fixins' for the meal.

Volunteers are needed to prepare the communion trays for the month of June. Please sign the sheet if you are willing to help with this.

The Elders have designated Sunday May 31st for a special contribution. This is the second of 4 5th Sundays during 2015 to be designated for a special contribution. The challenge is to double your regular contribution amount.