

BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BULLETIN

09/03/2023



Grace is not an excuse for deliberate sin.

As a minister and as a counselor I have had individuals sit in my office and try and persuade me that God will not punish them for their willful sin. Of course, the ultimate goal is not so much to persuade me as it is to convince themselves that they are “OK” with God despite their deliberate disobedience. One specific example that comes to mind was a young lady who was living in sin with her boyfriend. They had come to me for help with their relationship but were not happy with the scriptural admonishment I handed them. She then took it upon herself to “inform” me of the power of God’s grace and mercy. “You don’t understand!”, the deluded young lady said. “God already knows we are going to get married so he does not care that we are having sex.”

It was not only this couple who was guilty of twisting the meaning of God’s grace and mercy. Practically every individual who deliberately sins makes the same excuse to justify their choices. But the Bible is as clear as daylight regarding the matter. **Hebrews 10:26** reads as follows, “*For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment...*”. This passage deals with those who come to the knowledge that nothing else but the sacrifice of Jesus could pay the hefty price for their salvation. Despite that knowledge though, they freely and willfully sin, even though a fearful judgment awaits them.

Christ did not die an agonizing death on the cross to enable sin in our lives, but to free us from its devastating effects. In the case of the lady who tried to free her guilty conscience by misinterpreting God’s grace, **Romans 6:1-2** should serve as a stark warning, “*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?*” Paul had just been stressing that where sin abounded, grace abounded even more, but he did not want them to misinterpret the effect of grace in relation to continued sin. Incorrectly trying to prove to me (or herself) that God’s grace was more than the sins she and her boyfriend were committing is exactly the point Paul was trying to make in the aforementioned verses.

P.T.O...

Our union with Christ frees us from sin and the magnitude of that sin is directly related to the magnitude of God’s grace in forgiving it. That does, however, not excuse us from doing that which we know we ought not to do but continue doing anyway. God’s righteous judgment will not excuse our willful ignorance or disobedience of His Word. There is a saying, “Ignorance of the law is not an excuse” and the same applies to us scripturally. Our ignorance will not save us, only our obedience will.

We need to put away the excuses and take responsibility for the decisions we have made, purging sin from our lives and glorifying God in our obedience. *“How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?” (Heb. 10:29).*

<u>AM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>	<u>PM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>
<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> - Cleve Stafford	<u>ANNOUNCEMENT</u> - Cleve Stafford
<u>SONG</u> - 984 - We Bow Down	<u>SONG</u> - 255 - I am Resolved 1,2,4
<u>PRAYER</u> - Benjamin Twumasi	<u>PRAYER</u> - Jeffery Tarmey
<u>SONG</u> - 621 - Ten Thousand Angels 1,2,4	<u>SONG</u> - 282 - I Know that My Redeemer Lives 1,2,4
<u>COMMUNION</u> - 1 Cor 11:23-26 Douglas Roy	<u>SERMON</u> - Sanctification
<u>SONG</u> - 584 - Softly and Tenderly 1,2,4	<u>SONG</u> - 288 - I Need Thee Every Hour 1,2,4
<u>SERMON</u> - Who are You Imitating?	<u>COMMUNION</u> - Douglas Roy
<u>INV SONG</u> - 755 - When the Rollmis Called up Yonder	<u>INV SONG</u> - 297 - I Want to Be a Worker
<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Emmanuel Twumasi	<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Douglas Roy



ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS



Please silence your phone by placing it in airport mode.

We ask all visitors to please pick up a visitors card and fill it in.

- Bulletins are on the fireplace table and sermon notes are inside when available.
- Please put your offering in the provided envelope (don't write anything on it)..
- If you look on the back of the visitors card you will see space to right a prayer request if you have one - feel free to do that and hand it in to us so we can pray about it.
- Our next potluck luncheon is on Sunday 24 September following morning service. Please invite a friend and bring a dish to share enough for 12 servings.
- Our next movie night is Saturday 30 September at 6:30pm at the church building, movie still to be determined.



PRAYER REQUESTS



- Continued Prayers for Melinda's mom Isabel du Toit who is still undergoing Chemotherapy.
- Prayers for all our service people wherever in the world they have been deployed to.
- Prayers for all the people of Maui who lost loved ones and property.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for our sponsors.
- Praise God for our measure of health and wealth
- Praise God that we have the ability to worship in safety

BIRTHDAYS / SPECIAL OCCASIONS



04 September - Emmanuel Twumasi

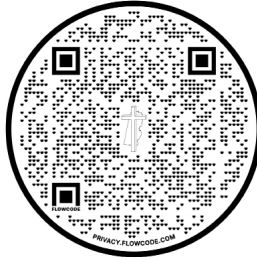
19 September - Stacey Tarmey

24 September - Sally Twumasi

Sunday morning Bible Class - 9:00AM (Ephesians)
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00PM (Genesis)
 Personal Bible Study (Convenient time)



Web Page



WiFi



Facebook

Word Search



Word List

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|------------|
| DOERS | HEARERS | HERD | IMITATE |
| IRON | ISRAEL | JUDAISM | MIRROR |
| MORALS | MORALS | PHARISEE | SACRIFICE |
| SHARPENS | SNARE | TIMOTHY | TRADITIONS |
| VIOLENT | ZEALOUS | | |