

### GODLY SORROW LEADS TO REPENTANCE AND JOY

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." (2 Corinthians 7:10)

One of the best definitions of Godly sorrow "is to be genuinely sorry for sin. to hate it more and more, and to run away from it." (Heidelberg Confession) We see a classic example of this with the prodigal son. He came to realise that he had not only made a mess of his life, but that he had sinned against his father, then one who loved him the most and gave him everything. Too often we are simply sorry because we got caught doing the wrong thing and we have to face the consequences. Godly sorrow is different. It doesn't blame parents, schools, the government, our spouse, friends or the church. Godly sorrow says, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin." (Psalm 51:1-2) Godly sorrow sees the vertical dimension of our sin. Sin is not simply a sad thing because it can wreck our lives and take away our peace. Sin does more than make God sad that his world is not the way it's supposed to be. Sin makes God angry. It is offensive to God. His wrath is aroused not simply because we're missing out on his best, but because we have violated his law, rejected his Lordship, and made ourselves gods in his place. Godly sorrow recognizes the utter sinfulness of sin and hates it more and more and urges us to run away from it. Sorrow is not the same as repentance. Most people think sorrow equals repentance. They feel really bad about something, therefore they are repentant. But notice that godly sorrow leads to repentance. There is an huge difference between regret and repentance. Regret feels bad about past sins. Repentance turns away from past sins. Most of us are content with regret. We just want to feel bad for a while, have a good cry and moan about our shortcomings. But we don't really want to change. Godly sorrow produces true repentance, which leads to salvation. Instead of obsessing over regrets and feeling bad due to the opinions of others, godly sorrow mourns for sin, turns from sin, and finds forgiveness for sin in Christ.

A good way to tell the difference between worldly and godly sorrow is that worldly sorrow immobilises you and godly grief mobilises you into action. Worldly sorrow leads you to wallow in your grief, obsess about what others think of you and wonder what might have been. It makes you stagnant and you have no real desire to change or grow. Godly sorrow on the other hand motivates you to change, to make right your wrongs, to be zealous for good works, to run from sin and start walking in the opposite direction. Godly sorrow leads to repentance, which leads you to God, which leads you to mercy and His mercy means a fresh start. So, yes, God wants us to feel guilty when we sin. But God doesn't want us to wallow in our sin. He wants us to run to the cross, confess it, be cleansed, and enjoy a life of joy living in His power and grace.

God bless, Pastor John.

# CARE GROUP MEETING

The Congregation Care Group (CCG) will be having their first meeting of the year at 11.30am this Thursday 19th January (please bring your lunch). The CCG's primary purpose is to look after those in our church family who are not connected into one of our home groups. They are in need of some extra members so if you are interested in joining the group please feel welcome to join us this Thursday.

### THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

Brian Scales has put together a Panoramic Bible Reading Programme for 2023. If you would like a free copy please take one from the bench in the foyer.

### PROMISED LAND PLAZA

It's all happening on Sunday 29th January so kids need to make sure they earn as much money as possible over the next few weeks. This will be our last Plaza as we are looking at some new options for this year's end of year holidays.

### **CHURCH LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

Our pastors, elders and deacons will be holding their annual retreat from 4th to 5th February. Please be in prayer for them as they consider some exciting and challenging new plans for our church in 2023.

### **COOLUM CRUSADERS SEASON 2023**

On-line registrations are open for season 2023 and we will also be holding a sign on day at the church on Saturday 12th February. Please be in prayer for the Club committee as they get everything ready for the first game of the season on Saturday 11th March.

## NOTES

# "God Can't Reject A Broken And Contrite Heart" (Psalm 51)

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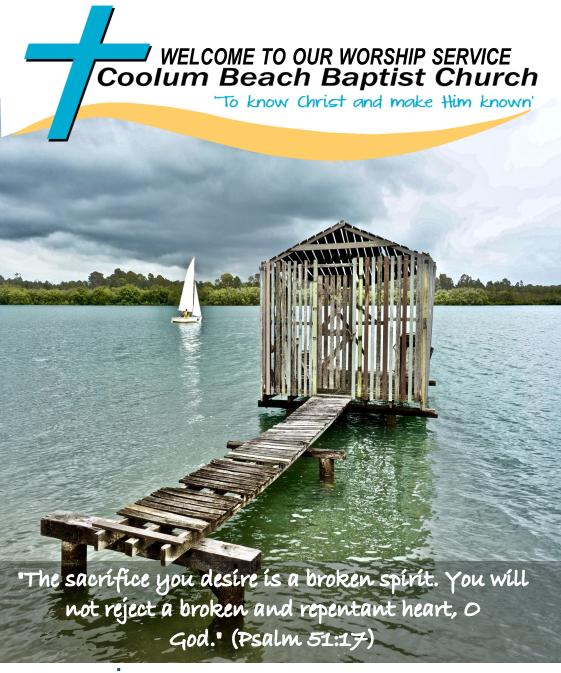
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15
January
2023

9AM
PASTOR HARRISON

"God Can't Reject A Broken And Contrite Heart" (Psalm 51)