

Notes

"Sin And The Tale Of Two Cities" (Genesis 4:1-26)

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Coolum Beach Baptist Church

'To know Christ and make Him known'



"You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you.

But you must subdue it and be its master." (Genesis 4:7)

03

9AM Pastor John

March

"Sin And The Tale Of Two Cities"
(Genesis 4:1-26)

Thought for the Week

A SACRIFICE FROM THE HEART

"By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts." (Hbrws 11:4)

Genesis 4 tells us the story of Cain and Abel as they came to bring their offerings to God. "When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. Abel also brought a gift – the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift." (verses 3-5). The author of Hebrews tells us that it was Abel's faith that made his sacrifice more acceptable to God. Such a revelation gives us a powerful truth to hold on to. The actions which please God are not acceptable because of their material content, but because they are an outward expression of a devoted and obedient heart.

The reason why Abel's sacrifice was acceptable was not because he offered an animal as opposed to Cain's vegetables. The distinction wasn't between the sacrifices offered but between the heart of those offering the sacrifice. It is this same distinction that God communicates through the prophet Isaiah when He tells the Israelites, "Stop bringing me your meaningless gifts. The incense of your offerings disgusts me! As for your celebrations of the new moon and the Sabbath and your special days for fasting – they are all sinful and false." (Isaiah 1:13) Samuel emphatically challenged King Saul with the same truth. "What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams." (1 Samuel 15:22) With regards to Cain and Abel, the Israelites and Saul, God is teaching us the same important truth. If you think you can rely on any of your own works as a means of making yourself acceptable to God, you must know that it will never happen. "Without faith it is impossible to please God." (Hebrews 11:6). Our good works are a result of our acceptance by God through Christ, not a means to acceptance. They are our response to His love, not a means of securing it. If your actions, like Abel's, are ever going to bring God glory and pleasure, it will be because they are an outward expression of your love for, devotion to, and personal faith in Him. So do not obey Him in order to be accepted by Him or to remain accepted by Him. It is faith that secures that. Equally, do not complacently stop striving to obey Him because you are already accepted by faith. Instead, be secure in His forgiveness and love that we have through Christ and let His pleasure be the motivation for your obedience.

God bless, Pastor John.

Prayer Points

- Praise God for his glorious and majestic are his deeds, and that his righteousness endures forever.
- That we will live with Christ as our hope and true source of peace and happiness.
- Thanks for encouraging numbers in Kids Ignite and Youth – pray for Harrison, Kaden, Lizzie, Jess, Mel and Elliott.
- For our church as we navigate this season of transition to a new Senior Pastor.
- For Judith Howland, Jan Acreman and Lesley Ratcliffe as they continue to heal.

What's on?

MONDAY

5PM Walking Soccer

TUESDAY

9:30AM Playgroup

WEDNESDAY

9AM Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

9AM Quilters

FRIDAY

9:30AM Playgroup

4PM Kids Ignite & Youth

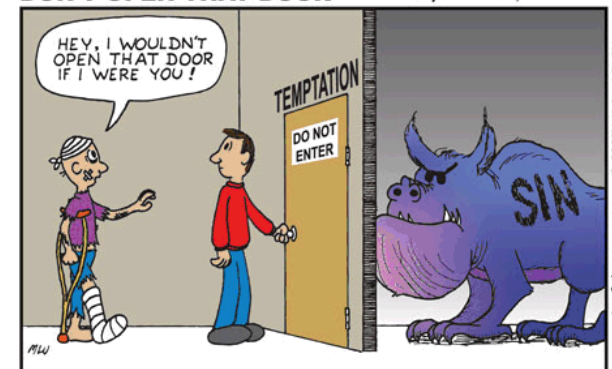


If you would like to know more about our Home Groups, contact Pastor John 0408 402 476

BIRTHDAYS: 4th Terry Elford

DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it. – GENESIS 4:6-7 MSG

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We had a very positive meeting last week, with a number of highlights.

- Welcoming 6 new members – Yan and Moira Perumal, Jenny Jensen, Carin Van Der Walt, Judie Turner and Dawn Johnson.
- Affirming our Pastoral Search team – Phil Roberts, Harrison Gallagher, John Curtis, Greg Blunden, Kristy Elford and Lisa Blair.
- Amending Pastor's Harrison spiritual appointment to be Associate Pastor for an open term.
- Approving the appointment of Greg Blunden in the role of Interim Church Co-Ordinator for 2 days per week during the time of transition.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Next Saturday 9th March. The cost is \$5 and the guest speaker will be an emergency intervention nurse who will give us some practical health applications. For catering purposes could you please put your name down on the sheet in the 'gallery' between the church and the hall.

CARE OUTREACH MOTHER'S DAY EVENT

Care outreach volunteers will soon be heading out west to visit families and deliver about 800 gift packages to outback mums for Mother's Day. Some items are still needed and we are asking for your help (ladies toiletries- gift box sets, soaps, hand lotions, moisturisers, matching washer and hand towel sets). Please bring any donations to the church over the next three weeks and put them in the box situated in the church gallery. Or alternatively, you can take them directly to Care Outreach.