



## Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

The true Gospel of Jesus Christ is constantly under attack – either from militant atheists, false teachers or liberal and legalistic Christians. Consequently, we must be vigilant to identify and repudiate any attempt to distort, embellish, diminish or destroy the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are two very common and dangerous (if not deadly) mistakes in misunderstanding the Gospel.

The first dangerous (and deadly) mistake is to walk into the steep brier-patch of **legalism** (e.g. Pelagianism/Semi-Pelagianism, Arminianism or nomism). Essentially, legalism is the belief that a person can earn or secure God's salvation by their good works. The legalist believes God's grace has made it possible to be saved, but that their individual salvation must be completed, either in part or in whole, by the merit of their good works.

Scripture states emphatically that a person cannot be saved by good works. Here are just a few of the many clear declarations from the Word of God: “[God] saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy” (Tit.3:5); “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph.2:8-9); “[God] saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus” (2Tim.1:9); “For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight” (Rom.3:20).

The second dangerous (or deadly) mistake is to fall into the miry clay of **liberalism** (e.g. libertinism, antinomianism, hyper-grace or heathenism). The rationale for liberalism is this: “Since I am saved by God's grace alone, and not at all by good works, then I can go on sinning because God's grace covers all my sin!” This is seeking to abuse God's grace, and reveals a gross misunderstanding of the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ. Jesus did not die on the cross so that we could continue in sin, but that we could be freed from the penalty and power of sin (Jn.8:31-36).

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, addressed this misunderstanding head-on: “What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ... For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin” (Rom.6:1-7; cf. Rom.2:4; 6:15-18; Gal.5:13; 1Pet.2:16). In response to this “liberal” thinking, the apostle Paul used the strongest negative phrase in the New Testament: “by no means” (which could be translated, “God forbid” or “that's absurd”).

The free-gift of God's sovereign grace is not deserved, cannot be earned and cannot be repaid – it can only be received through faith in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ alone!

“Someone has pictured legalism and libertinism as two parallel streams that run between earth and heaven. The stream of legalism is clear, sparkling, and pure; but its waters run so deep and furiously that no one can enter it without being drowned or smashed on the rocks of its harsh demands. The stream of libertinism, by contrast, is relatively quiet and still, and crossing it seems easy and attractive. But its waters are so contaminated with poisons and pollutants that to try to cross it is also certain death. Both streams are uncrossable and deadly, one because of impossible moral and spiritual demands, the other because of moral and spiritual filth. But spanning those two deadly streams is the bridge of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the only passage from earth to heaven. The two streams lead to death because they are man's ways. The gospel leads to life because it is God's way” (MacArthur, John).

Together in and for Christ,  
Pastor David

**Scripture Readings for the week** (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #36):

*Numbers 13-16; 1 Chronicles 20-24; Psalm 105-107; Proverbs 22; Joel; John 13-15; 2 Timothy 3-4*

**Recommended Reading:** “*The Gospel According to Paul*” by John MacArthur

Calendar of  
Events:

September 9

Men's Breakfast

September 13

AWANA Begins

October 13 & 14

Women's Weekend

Looking Ahead....

October 29

Reformation Sunday

For prayer requests,  
email Amy Woodruff  
at [prayer@sbcnb.org](mailto:prayer@sbcnb.org)  
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[sbcnb.org](http://sbcnb.org)

## Growth & Study.....

### Men's Group Studies

#### Mondays ~

**6:30pm** \*On break for summer\*  
w/Jeff Etzel

#### Wednesdays ~

**6:30-7:30am** "The Gospel According to Paul"  
w/Pastor David

**8:15-9:30pm** \*On break for summer\*  
w/Pastor Josh

#### Thursdays ~

**6:30-7:30am** "Let Us Pray"  
*Begins September 7th*  
w/Pastor Tim

#### Fridays ~

**6:30-7:30am** "The Gospel According to Paul" *Begins September 22<sup>nd</sup>*  
w/Pastor David

### Adult Group Studies

#### Sundays ~

**6:30-7:30pm** "The Sermon on the Mount" *Begins September 10<sup>th</sup>*  
At the Woodruff's Home (541-756-3311)

### College & Young Adults

#### Thursdays ~

**7:00-9:00pm** w/Pastor Tim 541-756-3311

### Women's Group Studies

#### Mondays ~

**6:30pm** "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians" *Begins September 11<sup>th</sup>*  
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

#### Tuesdays ~

**6:30-7:30am** "The Sermon on the Mount"  
*Begins September 19<sup>th</sup>*  
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

**8:30am** "Isaiah, the Lord Saves"  
*Begins September 12<sup>th</sup>*  
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

**9:00am** "Graceful Living"  
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-267-3106)

**7:00-8:15pm** "Romans"  
*Begins September 26<sup>th</sup>*  
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

#### Wednesdays ~

**9:00-10:30am** "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians" *Begins September 13<sup>th</sup>*  
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

**10:00am** "Acts"  
w/Jeanette Murphy (541-266-7575)

**6:30-8:00pm** "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians" *Begins September 13<sup>th</sup>*  
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

## Connect & Encourage.....

**Building Project Construction** ~ The building project is underway! There are many different tasks available and everyone is welcome to volunteer regardless of experience. Sign-up in the hallway outside of the kitchen or check our website at [www.sbcnb.org](http://www.sbcnb.org) for daily volunteer updates. Contact Keri in the church office with any questions or for more information.

**Men's Breakfast** - Walking in the truth. Men, that is what we do as we follow Christ in our marriages, with our children, in our jobs, etc. That is our life. Join us at 8:30 a.m. on September 9 for our first men's breakfast of the season, as we learn together to walk in the truth!

**Awana Begins September 13<sup>th</sup>** ~ Pre-register and order supplies on-line at [www.sbcnb.org](http://www.sbcnb.org) or on Sunday mornings in the foyer. We will gather your child's supplies and get them to you before Awana begins so you can avoid the line on the first night. We can't wait to spend this year growing in the Lord with your kid(s).

**Women's Weekend** - Ladies are invited to join us for Women's Weekend on October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Details and registration information coming soon!

## Children's Ministries.....

**AWANA** – Pre-register and order supplies on-line at [www.sbcnb.org](http://www.sbcnb.org) or on Sunday mornings in the foyer. We will gather your child's supplies and get them to you before Awana begins so you can avoid the line on the first night. We can't wait to spend this year growing in the Lord with your kid(s). Leader's meeting or for anyone interested in knowing what volunteering at Awana is all about on September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.



## Youth Ministries.....

### *Youth Group ~*

September 10<sup>th</sup> – High School youth group fall kick-off.  
Sunday night 6 to 8pm.

September 13<sup>th</sup> – Junior High youth group fall kick-off.  
Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8pm.

***High School Winter Retreat*** ~ December 28 to 31, 2017