



The MBC Weekly

Your Good Works Offend God.

Being a disciple of Jesus does not begin with something we do; but, with something Jesus has already done! When Jesus went to the cross, He redeemed our relationship with the Father that was broken by our sin against Him! By Jesus' death on the cross, He paid the penalty for our sins that we should have paid so that the Father would be just to grant us forgiveness, grace, mercy & love. By Jesus' sacrificial act, He made a way for the Father to adopt us into His family when we accept the work of His Son & His payment on our behalf. But Jesus' work, on our behalf is only effective when we quit trying to work our way into the Father's favor! We must accept God's offer of salvation through Christ alone by grace alone; and, cast aside any hope that our good deeds might impress the Father. Can you see how offensive it is to God when we try to make ourselves presentable to Him? We trample on His Son's sacrifice when we try to impress God with our "perceived" good deeds! We spit in His face & tell Him His Son's work on the cross wasn't good enough; that, we need to "add" our own. What God requires of us is nothing more than humility & brokenness, along with a confession that we're not worthy & incapable of ever becoming worthy of the salvation He offers us! What we need is a new start; a new beginning; a new birth! "You MUST be born again," Jesus said. He was referencing a "SPIRITUAL" birth. Your "physical" birth makes you a citizen of this world; but, only your "spiritual" birth can make you a citizen of heaven! That becomes your new identity! You're no longer a citizen of this world; rather, Scripture calls you a "temporary resident" here! Your citizenship is heaven! And, that's where we have to begin when we start a conversation about "spiritual growth." You have to be sure of your identity— in Christ— before you can ever hope to mature as a disciple of Christ. That is what Paul said happens at the moment of faith. Here's how the Amplified Bible expands on the meaning of Paul's words: "Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, all things have become new [because spiritual awakening brings a new life]" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"Greeting Team"

Sunday, January 14th

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ 10:30 am for brief prayer & then go "welcome" people in foyer & the auditorium!

Greeters This Week:

- 1st Sunday—Odin Dart Thursday Night; Thurs Night Ladies Group
- 2nd Sunday—Justin Taylor Sunday Night;
- 3rd Sunday—Randy Ehlers Monday Night;
- 4th Sunday—Curt Mastbergen Sun Noon; Josh Tackett Sunday Night

Small Groups @ MBC:

Are Committed To Multiplying— While Numeric Growth Alone Does Not Make An Effective Small Group, Failure To Grow Can Be A Sign Of An Ineffective Small Group

Announcements

1. On The Church Calendar: The new "Servant Equipped" class begins TODAY, Wednesday, Jan 10th
2. Looking For A Good Novel? That's not smutty or sinful? Consider: Dead Sea Rising by Jerry Jenkins

You're Not The Old You. If you're a believer; or, a disciple of Jesus, you're no longer that OLD you. You've become; and, are becoming the NEW you— *the spiritually born-again you!* And, one day God will finish the work He began in you that day you were converted— *that's the coming day of your "glorification"!* Until that day, God will be at work in you, sanctifying you. That's a big word— SANCTIFICATION— but, break it down to its simplest form & it's the process by which God makes you more like Jesus and less like you! He does that, in part, by revealing to us our sin, convincing us to forsake it, and, empowering us to overcome it! The Apostle Paul summarized it well for the Church of Philippi when he wrote: "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" Philippians 1:6. What God started at your salvation; and He continues to do in your sanctification, He will complete at your glorification!