

“Greeting Team”

For Sunday, June 23

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go “welcome” people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

Greeters this week:

Curt Mastbergen Sun Noon;

Josh Tackett Sunday Night

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

Small Groups @ MBC

Are Led By Biblically Qualified Leaders Who Receive Ongoing Support, Oversight & Curriculum Approval From Our Team Of Elders

Announcements

1. A Great Book For Your Next Purchase? “*You Can Change*” by Tim Chester, Crossway Books
2. A Great Bible Study Online Resource? Check out www.preceptaustin.org. Great little website!

What Does Spiritual Growth Look Like?

My parents were not “hobby” gardeners! A lot of gardening today tends to be more “recreational” than essential to life, doesn’t it? That was not the way it was for me growing up! It really was “life or death” for us! If we didn’t grow our food, we wouldn’t have had anything to eat. We had 2 huge gardens & it seemed like we grew every kind of vegetable known to man. My mom canned everything; and, by the end of the harvest season, the cellar was stacked full of canned food. But, let me tell you the most vivid memory I have about my parent’s garden, growing up—it was the daily battle we waged against undesirable and troublesome plant life that grew profusely where it was not wanted... WEEDS! According to the dictionary, weeds are: “*a valueless plant growing wild, especially one that grows on cultivated ground to the exclusion or injury of the desired crop.*” Every summer my dad preached the same sermon to us— “*We have to kill the weeds; or, the weeds will kill our crops.*” So, every morning— early, before it got too hot— my sisters & I made our way to the garden, with a garden hoe in hand, to kill the weeds before they killed our crops! The parallels to our spiritual life are obvious, aren’t they? Our sins are like weeds in the gardens of our lives, and just like weeds harm & injure the desired garden crops we’re growing, so, the remaining sin in us will stunt our spiritual growth & development! Sin, like weeds, has to be rooted out of our lives and killed! The old Puritan, John Owen, warned that “*We’ve got to be killing sin; or, sin will be killing us.*” That is what Biblical, spiritual growth is all about! Paul taught the Church of Rome: “*If you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live*” Romans 8:13. And, that’s what we call “SANCTIFICATION.” It should resonate with you that SANCTIFICATION = SPIRITUAL GROWTH! Just adding more Bible knowledge is NOT sanctification or spiritual growth if we’re still entertaining sin in our lives! The goal of our salvation is NOT HEAVEN! The goal of our salvation is JESUS! By faith, in Him, we are remade in His image! According to Paul, that transformation work is done in our lives by God’s indwelling Holy Spirit— “*...IF by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body...*” The work of rooting sin out of our lives is the Spirit’s work.

Here’s What Life Is All About

It’s imperative that you understand what this life is all about! It’s NOT ultimately about your family, your job, or your retirement! It’s NOT about you or the “American Dream”! It’s about your SANCTIFICATION! That’s why you’re still here! If you’re a genuine believer in Jesus Christ, a follower & disciple of His, then you were JUSTIFIED when you humbled yourself & accepted His payment, for your sin, on the cross! At the moment you believed, God JUSTIFIED you! He pardoned you; and, set you free from the penalty of your sin; which, is death! And, one day you will be GLORIFIED! You’ll be given a new GLORIFIED body like Jesus; and, you’ll be set free from the very presence of sin! Hallelujah! “*If there is an earthly body, there is also a spiritual body.*” I Corinthians 15:44-58