

Why Do We Sin?

“No one is to say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death. “

James 1:13-15

**Welcome, and thank you, again! ...Walter York
Speaker for today**

August Birthdays

1 Paige Cree 12 Debbie Hoffman
16 Nick Hoffman 27 Isaiah Diaz

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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*“Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding.”*
Proverb 3:5

- *“Fight the good fight”*
- *“Keep the faith”*
- *“Finish the course”*

Our Citizenship is in Heaven

By David R. Ferguson

In his Epistle to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul stated in chapter 3 verses 20-21 [ESV], *“But our citizenship is in Heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.”* This is yet another wonderful passage from God’s word that gives us a brief glimpse into seeing what awaits those of us who have been immersed into Christ and donned with His glorious apparel (Galatians 3:27). When we are clothed in Christ by submitting to being baptized for the remission of our sins, we rise up from the water to be clothed in His holy garments, a new creature whose citizenship and home now lies in Heaven.

Paul also told the church on Corinth, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come”* (2 Corinthians 2:17 [ESV]). Paul explains this passing away of our old carnal nature in his letter to the congregation at Rome, saying, *“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised*

from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. 8. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.”(Romans 6:3-8 [ESV]) When we undergo baptism, we declare and proclaim visually to the world this wondrous gospel plan of salvation message of Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). When we are baptized into Christ, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), and as citizens of Heaven we are children of God and siblings of our elder Brother, Jesus.

Paul writes, *“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by Whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.”*(Romans 8:14-17 [ESV])

But our suffering in this life will be worth it as our reward in Heaven will be great beyond measure: *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us”* (Romans 8:18 [ESV]) When Jesus returns to gather us with Him and carry us home to live in Heaven forever: *“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is”*(1 John 3:2 [ESV]).

“But our citizenship is in Heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body.”

It is Finished

By Bill Brandstatter

The statement “It is finished” is considered by many to be one of final statements of Jesus as He hung on Calvary’s cross. What did Jesus mean when he referred to “it?” No doubt he was referring to the work the Father gave Him to do. (John 9:4) Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). Obviously, all the lost were not yet saved when Jesus died. The process for saving them, however, was finished. Jesus put in motion the preaching of the gospel. He gave the Great Commission to His disciples so men could know what to do to be saved (Mark 16:15, 16). He shed His blood to open the door to heaven for Jew and Gentile alike.

Jesus also came that all men might have life (John 10:10). John tells us that *“in Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”*(John 1:4) Jesus opened the door of life for all those who obey Him (Heb.5:9).

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). He most definitely did that when he drove out demons from men (Mark. 5:1-20).

Jesus came to set up His church. He laid the foundation (Eph. 2:20). He gave his apostles the entrance requirements and sent them out to preach. All this was done in order to finish the work the Father gave Him to do. (John 17:4)

“It is finished” shows authority. To say “it is finished” is to say no additions are necessary. When man attempts to add, change, or modify the work of Jesus, he is denying the authority of that statement. God’s work of redemption is done, it is completed.

Peter noted that we have all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). Therefore, nothing more is needed. The plan of salvation is complete. Many today have yet to obey (Rom. 10:16). The old song we sometimes sing says, “Trust and obey for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus than to trust and obey.” Does that song apply to me? Is my salvation complete? What more must I do?