

## AN ADMONITION FOR A NEW DAY

***We all wrestle with our human frailty. Mankind is broken. That is why Christ came. In and through Him redemption is made available to all who believe. But the high sounding promise of positional holiness collides with practical holiness, that is, with the way that we live out the truth of our calling as God's people. One thing is for certain: You cannot live by works to be justified nor can you (as a believer) love by works as God's child. In the words of another, "Good works cannot make one a Christian, but a Christian produces good works."***

1. **Every pastor's nightmare: Ezk 33:17-33.** Outward productive ministry with little to no lasting fruit.
  - a. No matter how honest, clear, applicable, engaging, convicting or approved the preaching, teaching and admonition - it alone is not enough.
  - b. Absent application by those taught, and God's aid - the word will not change your life.  
***The proclamation of the message has two elements: hearing certainly, and doing.***  
***Jas 1:22-25***

### 2. We need to make up our minds. Rom 6:1-23

- a. Repentance begins in our mind vs 1-10
  - Licentiousness does not produce good fruit (e.g., Gal 5:19-21)
  - According to the word, believers have died to sin and possess new life.
    - \* The old self is dead and sins power has been broken (See 1 Cor 10:13)
    - \* Sin can no longer separate us from our Holy God - we have eternal life.
    - \* We now live to God in/through Christ.
- c. So, how does this work? These words both comfort and damn us in our struggle with the influences of this world, our own brokenness and the attacks of the enemy. If we try this apart from a dependence on Him, we will be miserable!
  - First, make up your mind not to let sin reign (Hint - you *will* fail, and often). But rest on your known spiritual reality as a child of God. Ps 19:13 comes to mind.
  - Seek to act in a way commensurate with your reality as a redeemed person.
  - Don't "skate close to the edge."

***Sin shall not be our master***

#### ***Think about this:***

- ***Rom 8:1, Eph 4:17-32. You are under grace.***
- ***Phil 4:6-7 Show grace to yourself***
- ***Eph 4:1-2 Show grace to others***

### 3. SO - if we cannot help sinning and God is gracious do we just give up and wallow in our own self indulgence and resultant misery? NO!

- a. Decide who you will serve - God or self.
- b. Understand and appreciate your position as a redeemed man or woman - you are free.
- c. Be proactive - Confess it when you fail, seek Him, show grace to self and others. Rejoice!