

What We Miss With Ezekiel 18:20

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons:

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Alan Cook
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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In the large and somewhat overwhelming book of Ezekiel, we see some pointed words concerning the spiritual relationship between a father and son's respective sins. Ezekiel 18:20 reads, "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself."

Oftentimes we talk about this passage in order to show the truth that babies and children do not inherit sin from their parents, grandparents, or Adam and Eve. Oftentimes we use this passage to denounce what is falsely taught in the Calvinistic doctrine of "Total Hereditary Depravity" (A.K.A. original sin). Oftentimes we point out that a young son is not found guilty of the sins of his dad, and vice-versa. Instead of focusing on what we often focus on with these words, I want to offer some different thoughts.

Have you ever known a family that you respect greatly, yet whenever their teenage son committed a serious crime or offense, you started to look at that family differently? Have you been aware of a woman who was caught stealing money from her employer, causing you to also look down upon her husband? Have you ever looked with contempt at someone simply because their ancestors owned slaves or did some similar act? Have you grouped a family together as evil simply due to their last name? Have you ever frowned upon a mother or father because their offspring decided to live it up in a worldly fashion?

I remember reading about Sue Klebold, the mother of one of the shooters in the massacre at Columbine High School in 1997. After that terri-

ble act, she received lots of hate and charges of blame for what happened that infamous day in Colorado. For years she dealt with depression and self-blame, saying "I raised the individual who did this."* Is that fair to blame a mother for the sin that her child committed? Is it right to make them out to be guilty whenever the evidence doesn't lend to that conclusion?

Now, I realize that a teenager's worldliness can sometimes be partially attributed to the way their parents raised them. I realize that a wife or husband can be complicit in the wickedness of his or her spouse. But what about situations where there is no evidence, nor reason, to group someone else into that particular situation? How do we treat them?

Whenever we take the sins of a certain individual and then consciously or subconsciously hold the innocent people connected with that certain individual as similarly guilty, we are not exuding the love of Christ. Whenever we avoid our brother in Christ because of what his wife did, we aren't being loving towards that brother (I John 4:20-21; John 13:34-35). Whenever we decline to be a part of times of fellowship due to a particular person's family attending, we are not having the right heart of fellowship (Acts 2:42; 4:32). Whenever we neglect to serve others because of their familial relation to someone who has wronged you, we are not having the right mindset towards service (Galatians 5:13-15; Hebrews 6:10). With Ezekiel 18:20 in mind, I beg you to not attribute the word "wicked" to someone whom God has attributed the word "righteous".

Luke Yates

*www.macleans.ca/society/i-raised-the-individual-who-did-this-a-columbine-mother-speaks/

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14



Pam Babb, Betty Ball, Jack Brodie, Fred Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Angela Collett, Charles Collinsworth Sr., Pete Conrow, Ed Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Louise Faules, Mary Jane Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Faye Haught, May Hill, Wilma Hill, Doris Jones, Jack Johnson, Guy Lewis, Chester Lyons, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Ron Naramore, Pat Risley, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Bobbie Tuggle, Margaret Wald, Ruth Ann Wilson, Treva Wolgamott, Velda Wood, Neosho Christian School and Honduras mission work.

- Don Goeman remains in Freeman West Hospital.
- Linda Haught is home after gall bladder surgery Monday.

Sympathy: We mourn with Dorothy Wolgamott and Shana Griffin at the sudden passing of their mother, Billie Griffin, Saturday night. Visitation will be at McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, and a funeral service will be held there at 10 a.m. Thursday.

Thank you:

Thanks so much for the cards and for thinking of me.

Joyce Clarkson

Thank you so much for the cards and prayers this summer! I'm continuing to improve each day and am very optimistic about my complete healing.

Julie Johnston

New phone number: Carol Bessman can be reached at 417-658-0056.

Free Wednesday night dinner for college students and young adults at 6:00 p.m. in the new fellowship building! Come enjoy good food and company. Bring friends!



This Sunday's Sermons:

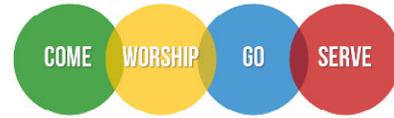
A.M. *We Worship* (Danny Boggs)

P.M. *Work Out Your Own Salvation*
(Phil. 2:12-13; Danny Boggs)

Thanks to everyone for giving an extra dollar on Sundays to help someone in need. Recently we helped a member of our community who is having lots of medical expenses. See Luke if you know people we can help.



Jean Johnson will teach Thursday morning ladies' Bible class this week on "Keeping The Light On." Join us at 10:00 in the old fellowship room.



Come and Worship, Go and Serve! Sunday, October 8, we will meet for Bible study at 9:00 and worship at 10:00, then enjoy lunch together in the new building.

Instead of coming back together for worship at 6:00, we will spend the afternoon serving older members and our community. How could we help you, a neighbor, a family member or a friend? Please tell Mike Kidwell.

Living for Christ

Our ladies' retreat is October 20-22. Please pick up a flier in the foyer if you are interested in attending.



Neosho Fall Festival: If you can help with the Hillcrest booth during the fall festival on the square October 7-8, please see the sign up list on the bulletin board. We will need people to work the booth and provide cookies.

Congregational Singing Seminar with Brad Carter November 3-5. How can we offer God and each other our best when we worship in song? This is for all of us, whether you're a virtuoso or couldn't carry a tune in a bucket. Your kids will enjoy it, too. Brad is a faithful Christian and a lot of fun. He teaches music to kids every day in the school at Dadeville, Missouri.

The Sunday morning 3rd and 4th grades class has given \$400 over the last two years to help orphans in Haiti whom Zechariah Anderson met. Great work, kids! And thanks to their teachers M'ile Cook and Ginger Murray for teaching them to be generous.



PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, October 1

- AM Opening: Pete Babb
- AM Closing: Rick Hyder
- PM Opening: Charlie Collinsworth
- PM Closing: Nolan Murray

Wednesday, October 4

- Opening: Zane Berner
- Closing: Alec Fehring

RECORDS	09-24-17	09-25-16
Bible Study	124	147
AM Worship	186	195
PM Worship	120	130
Wednesday	153	137
Contribution	\$8,835.80	\$8,195.96
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67