A Good Confession

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”

Luke 18:13

Recently, I was reading a news article about how bad society has become at apologizing. Phrases like, “I’m sorry if I offended you” or “Sorry, not sorry” have become a popular way of apologizing without actually being sorry. Very rarely do we hear, “I’m sorry. What I did was wrong.” It seems we are much more quick to defend or make excuses than have ownership of our mistakes. Living in the digital age when a wrong is done by someone, culpability is denied unless there is video evidence. We see this all the time in all facets, from sports to politics and religion. Why is it so hard to admit when we are wrong? Why do we strive so hard to prove our own rightness?

This is not a new human problem. The first Adam was also the first person to place blame on someone else. Rather than taking responsibility for his actions he pointed a finger at Eve, his wife. We’ve been playing the blame game ever since. A heart that is unwilling to confess wrong is not able to change. Confession of our sins is the beginning of change. When we bring our misdeeds to God, our hearts become fertile soil for the healing work of grace. Confession rids the soul of the illusion of our own righteousness and admits that we are totally dependent on God’s grace.

Even Jesus, the only person to live and not sin, anchored his life on the goodness of God. He was quick to reveal this truth to others saying, “No one is good—except God alone” (Luke 18:19). I don’t think Jesus was being overly modest. I think he was honestly sharing the way he trusted and relied on God as he lived on earth. He knew what it was to be tempted. He saw up close our weaknesses, shortcomings, failings, and wrongs. Then, he took it all on himself and became sin for us so that we could be forgiven.

Jesus gives life to those who cry out in confession, “God, have mercy on me a sinner.” When one comes to faith in Christ, they cannot enter into that relationship without first admitting that they are a sinner in need of salvation. Even after we become followers of Jesus, we are still sinners in need of grace. Paul, perhaps the greatest missionary of the church, did not say “I was a sinner, but not anymore.” Instead, he wrote, “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the worst.” This is a good confession for us all.

Nathan Burrow

Welcome Guests

May 28, 2017

We are glad you are here! Please fill out a Welcome Visitor card and place in the collection plate. Go by our Information Area on the right side of the Worship Center for materials that will help acquaint you with Hillcrest.

For your convenience, the staffed nursery for children 2 months to 24 months is available. Check-in is in the foyer. The parents’ nursery & training area is available to parents and children. Enter at the back of the Worship Center.

Bible Classes for All Ages

Age 2 Room 100
Age 3 Room 106
Age 4 Room 107
Pre-K Room 110
Kindergarten Room 118

Welcome Classes

Middle School Room 204
High School Room 200
University Room 17

Adult Classes

Sonrise (all ages) Room 14
Y/O (all ages) Room 10/11
Welcome (all ages) Room 12
Souful Filling (all ages) Room 14
Common Ground (30s & 40s) Room 16
H.O.P.E. (all ages) Room 21
Travelers (all ages) Room 30
Christ in Action (all ages) Room 52
Young Professionals (20s) Room 212
F.U.N. (all ages) Room 219
Generations (all ages) Chapel

Worship Times

Morning Worship 9 a.m.
Bible Classes 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Classes 7 p.m.

Glorifying God

May 28, 2017

Worship Leader....................................................Odies Wright
Hymn ..............................................................Awesome God, He is Faithful
Welcome ..........................................................David Copeland

Songs of Praise

Hymn: #63 .....................................................I Will Call upon the Lord
Hymn: ............................................................How Can I Keep from Singing
Hymn: .............................................................Love Came Down

Prayer of Confession

Psa 51:1-7 ..........................................................Lucas McNeill
Luke 18:9-14 .....................................................Lucas McNeill
Prayer ..............................................................Sean McNeill

We Celebrate the Lord’s Supper

Hymn: ................................................................. Communion Prayer
Communion Meditation ........................................... Bill Luttrell
Hymn: #478 ...................................................... Nearer, Still Nearer

Offering

Prayer .............................................................. Bill Luttrell
Hymn: #808 ..................................................... Abide with Me
Hymn: #745 ..................................................... Humble Yourself
(Children may escort children to TLC during this song.)

“Sinners Welcome Here”

Message ........................................................... Nathan Burrow
Hymn: #276 ...................................................... Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

Responses

Send the Light Blessing

Family News ........................................................ Lynn Luttrell
Hymn: #577 ...................................................... We Bow Down
Elder Blessing .................................................... Charles Perkins

(*Children’s Song of the Month)
Today's Speakers
A.M. - Nathan Burrow
P.M. - Coy Roper – in the chapel at 6 p.m.

Sympathy
Sympathy to Russell and Cene Gould on the loss of Russell’s brother-in-law, Mike Brady, of Burnett.
Sympathy to Cathy Franklin and Paula Ernst on the loss of Cathy’s mother, Catherine Howard.

New Baby
Congratulations to Kenny & Kathy Hornor on the birth of a grandson, Graham Lawrence Vargas. Parents are Karri & Michael Vargas. Great-grandmother is Betty Annett.

New Member
Deen Lowrey, mother of Beth Komoroski.

Get to Know Nathan
If you would like to visit with Nathan, please call the office to make a time to visit. He will be in Zambia most of July.

New Member/Updated Old Member Pictures
Do you have more children or have they grown more than 8 inches? Are you pictured at all? Time for a new picture! Alan will be taking pictures at the side of the worship center today after worship.

MLB - Men’s Day - Saturday, June 3
Join us for Men’s Life Breakfast and Burgers at Bill Walker’s! We will start with donuts, fruit, coffee & juice at 8:30. We will have a devotional in the barn at 9:15. The horseshoe tournament will start at 10 a.m. along with disc golf, washers, ladder golf, ping pong, “42” and Jokers & Marbles. Lunch will begin at 11:30. Help will be needed setting up, cooking and shuttling people from the parking area. If you have any questions, call Bill Walker (232-3392), David Beard (309-313-5550) or Alan Clute (691-4217). Sign up in Bible class.

Baby Shower - June 4, 2-3:30 p.m.
Honoring Josh & Whitney Hardcastle and upcoming little boy, Brooks Wade, at the home of Teanie Benham, 18 Augusta.

Ties for Zimbabwe
Remember that tie that did not win “The First Annual Maybe Never to be Repeated Ugly Tie Contest” last year? Perhaps it could “win” in Zimbabwe! Seriously though, those going to Zimbabwe this year (Ken Austin, Kevin Batten, Brian Davis, John Fewkes, and Cam Hurst) would like to take ties to share with our brothers in Zimbabwe. Please put your gifted tie(s) in the box beside the welcome table by today.

Christian Service Center Needs
Towels, sheets, washed pillows, can openers, measuring cups and measuring spoons. Please place items in the collection box by the information table.

Good SOIL Projects (Serving Others in Love)
The Hillcrest Family wants to help out whenever we can. We have created a list of needs on our website with a contact phone number. If you can help out, visit hillcrestonline.com/good-soil/ and find out where you are needed.

Missions and Faith Sharing
Today, the congregation will pray for and bless those participating in the Send the Light mission trips during 2017. Your gracious donations $85,429 will help send 65 Hillcrest members to 9 countries by paying half their airfare. This summer we will send them to Austria, Greece, Haiti, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ukraine, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Calendar of Events
May 28 ........... Elder Blessing for Summer Missions
May 29 ........... Office Closed/Memorial Day
June 3 ........... Men’s Life Breakfast at Bill Walker’s
June 11 ............ Bible Class Fellowship
June 18-21 ....... VBS
June 12-27 ....... Vienna Mission Trip
July 4 ............ Hillcrest July 4 Neighborhood Parade
July 9 ............ Bible Class Fellowship
July 23-26 .......... VIP Camp
August 13 .......... Bible Class Fellowship

Children’s Corner
Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #4)
Training and Learning for Children (Children’s Church): (Ages 2-4) Parents may escort their child to the Children’s Wing during the song before the sermon.

No Bible Hour Tonight
VBS - June 18-21, 2017
Register online at www.hillcrestonline.com/events/vbs/
VIP Camp - July 23-26 (For children who have finished 1st-5th grade.) Online registration forms will soon be emailed to our families.

HYG – Youth
Wednesday – 7 p.m. - Bible Class (middle school in the MS classroom, HS in the youth room.)
Summer Kick off - June 4 at The Dive Spot from 6-8 p.m.
Encounter (June 11-17) for those entering 9th grade - graduating seniors
Camp Champion (June 28-July 3) for those entering 6th-8th grade
Pine Springs - July 29-August 4, for incoming 7th graders through graduating seniors. Go to pinespriescamp.com to sign up or get brochure from J or Keri.

Hillcrest - U
Tonight - 7 p.m. - Movie Night at the Hatfield House. Bring desserts/snacks to share!
Wednesday - 7 p.m., Class, Crazy Love
June 12-27 - Vienna Mission Trip - Keep us in your prayers!

Family Ministry
New Wednesday Night Class - 7 p.m., Rm 14/15, A Life Long Love
Couples often settle for too little when it comes to marriage, we fail to understand how deeply God cares about our spouse. We diminish our need to not only understand what biblical love really is, but also to become a people who excel at it. We let ourselves drift apart instead of making the daily choices to grow closer together.

This series promises to set your relationship on an entirely new dimension. You will never look at worship or your spouse in the same way again, and this series will guide you through the power shifts and seasonal mine fields that blow up so many marriages so that you can grow in your love, instead of in your disappointment.

Adult Education Corner
Sunday Morning Adult Classes – The series on the book of Philippians continues.
Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class - Will resume in the Fall.

Wednesday Night Classes
• Rm 10/11 - Bill Brant continues series titled “What do we do with Jesus?”
• Rm 16 – Congregational Singing: Join Odies Wright for a time of worship in song!
• Rm 30 – ESL Class
• Rm 51 – Class for Singles led by Glenn Tuttle
• Rm 52 – Divorce Care will resume in the fall.
• Rm 212 – Class for Young Professionals
• Rm 219 – Women’s Bible Class: Daring Faith by Randy Harris and Greg Taylor. Women of all ages are invited.