DEVOTIONAL: THE POWERLESSNESS OF LAW

SERIES: Gospel Preaching and Sanctification, part 9

INTRO: We left off discussing our ongoing need for sanctifying grace, i.e., God's work to conform us to the likeness of Christ. We daily need this kind of grace because we are still sinners and to some degree, we still fail to see Christ's majestic beauty and our severe daily need for sanctification. We still need to discuss "Christ's majestic beauty," but first I want to round out our discussion of the proper use of God's law in our sanctification. Pointedly, God's law *shows us our need for sanctifying grace, but it is never the power of sanctifying grace.*

QUESTION 19: Why must we never treat God's law (His holy commandments) as the power of sanctifying grace? *Because the law arouses sinful passions rather than kills them.*

Romans 7:5–6, "For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code."

Romans 7:8, "But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead."

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DEVOTIONAL: THE POWERLESSNESS OF LAW (cont.)

Romans 7:10–13, "The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹ For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹² So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. ¹³ Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

2 Corinthians 3:6–11, "who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

QUESTION 20: Does this mean that obeying commandments is not important? *NEVER! It means the power to obey commandments does not come from commandments, but only from the Spirit of the risen Lord.* It means we look to Christ alone to produce obedience and kill sin within us.

Romans 6:14–15, "For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!"

APPLICATION: If we genuinely desire holy obedience, we will look to Christ alone as the power source. We will be desperate for Christ and His sanctifying grace. We will indeed love God's law because it shows us God and shows us our ongoing need for our beloved Savior, ever turning our hearts to Jesus for mercy and Spiritual power.

Nursery Workers – January 7th

I AM (Crib) – Janie Steplowski and Bill Fornoff II AM (Toddlers) – Alex Lewis and Phoebe Evans PM– Combined I/II – Linda Mack and Marie Reid Wed. (1/3) – Lynette Winzenried and Tami Cooney

Prayer Intercessor – January 7th – Tina Holmes **Greeters** – January 7th – Anita Gearheart and Brian Akers **Ushers** – January 7th – Gil Brown, Mark Evans*, Wesley Evans, Mark Huna, John Steplowski, and John Uhler*

Today's Ushers— Bradyn Citro, Mark Evans, Wayne Hudson, Vince Minichiello, John Steplowski, and Bill Tomlinson * ushers that greet in the lobby



North Harford Baptist Church

www.NorthHarford.org
Standing for Truth

December 31, 2023



WELCOME TO NHBC

If you are visiting, we welcome you, and we are glad to have you. We hope your visit is encouraging. Use the CONNECT WITH US CARD in the lobby (at the Welcome Center and on the countertop) to let us know about your visit. You can place the card in the offering plate when it comes around during worship, or the offering plate on the counter in the lobby.

We have morning and evening worship services every Sunday. Morning worship focuses on preaching and applying the New Testament. Evening worship focuses on preaching and applying the Old Testament.

We want to help you come to faith and live out your faith according to God's Word. For more information, pick up a WELCOME FOLDER in the lobby.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Wednesday

Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)

No Evening Worship

Monday Church Office Closed—Happy New Year!

Tuesday 9:00-10:00 AM Precept Book Pick Up (Fellowship Hall)

6:30 PM Church-wide Prayer (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study (Rm. 1)

Boys Bible Club (1st-6th grade boys) Girls in Action (1st-6th grade girls) Youth on Mission (7th—12th graders)

Friday 7:00—9:30 PM Youth Christmas Costume Party *Nursery Provided (birth-3 years old), Downstairs in Rooms 8 and 9

M-F 8:30–9:00 AM Ladies Phone Devotional

CONTACT INFORMATION

North Harford Baptist Church 4008 Old Federal Hill Road Jarrettsville, MD 21084 (410) 836-6994 www.NorthHarford.org

Pastor Matt Fortunato — pastormatt@northharford.org Pastor Anthony Wilson—pastoranthony@northharford.org Jason Manry—jason@northharford.org Jennifer Evans — secretary@northharford.org

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

NO EVENING SERVICE

There will be no Evening Worship Service tonight for New Year's Eve.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office is closed tomorrow for New Year's Day. Happy New Year!

NO CHOIR PRACTICE

The choir will not practice this Wednesday night. Practice will resume on January 10^{th} .

PRECEPTS BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study will resume meeting on Tuesdays from 9:15-11:30 AM on January 9th. Ladies who have signed up to do the study should pick up their books on Tuesday, January 2nd between 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Anita Gearhart of Janet McNeil.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS COSTUME PARTY

Youth, prepare your costume and invite your friends to the Youth Christmas Party on Friday from 7:00-9:30 PM.

ON THE HORIZON

LADIES MOVIE NIGHT

Ladies, we are looking for two more women to host a Ladies Movie Night on Friday, January 12th at 7 PM. Please let Becky Fortunato know if you are interested in hosting!

GAME NIGHT

Our next community outreach will be a Game Night for all ages. Join us on Saturday, January 13th from 6:30-8:30 PM for a night of playing board, card, and video games. There will be a variety of games as well as free drinks and nachos. Be sure to invite others!

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

On Sunday, January 14th, we will have a Fellowship Meal after our morning worship. Please bring a main dish and a side dish or dessert to share with your church family. There will be no Evening Worship Service that day.

CHURCH NEWS

YOUTH ON MISSION

Starting in January, Pastor Anthony will lead the Youth on Mission class that meets on Wednesday nights at 7 PM. This class is for students in grades 7th to 12th. The students will learn the value of God's Word, how to study scripture, and the miraculous outworking of God's kingdom here on earth. The students will be pointed to Christ as king of all, and that truth is eternal and never changing. The first book that they will study is the Book of Acts. All youth are invited to join the class. If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Anthony.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ladies, the Women's Ministry has a private Facebook page where we share events, prayer requests, and ask questions. If you would like to join, please use the QR code to find the page on Facebook and request to be added to the page. If you'd like to join Facebook but need some help getting started, Becky Fortunato can help you. If you do not want to be on Facebook, but would still like to receive more regular Women's Ministry information via an email or text, please let Becky Fortunato know.

PRAYER INTERCESSORS NEEDED

Did you know we have someone praying during the morning service for those in attendance and for the pastor? They have a sheet to guide their prayer times as they listen to the service. Each prayer intercessor serves only a few times per quarter. Is this something you'd like to do to serve the church family? If so, please contact Janet McNeil. She can answer any questions and get you signed up.

JANUARY MAGAZINES

New magazines are available in the magazine racks on either side of the lobby and downstairs by the exit. Please help yourself!

ONLINE GIVING

If you would prefer to give online, please scan the QR code for a secure online giving option.



MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome

Gospel & Prayer: Matthew 9:35-38 (Pew Bible Page 1257)

O Worship the King

Psalm & Prayer: Psalm 27:11-14 (Pew Bible Page 710) Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me | Show Us Christ

Offering | Sermon

All Glory Be to Christ | Benediction

SERMON: Following Jesus

Matthew 16:24-28 (Pew Bible Page 1269)

My Notes:		