

PASTOR'S ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (Psalm 51:2). John confirms the importance of confession in the believer's life. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9). Dealing with sin apart from confession to God is like starting a campfire without wood, a non-starter.

Second, turn your heart to the promises of the gospel.

This is the key! Confession of sin apart from resting in the gospel only brings a superficial and fleeting emotional experience, but not true comfort and purification of heart. Remember that Jesus "has freed us from our sins by his blood" (Revelation 1:5), which includes being freed from the guilt and penalty of sin. Literally, the only thing that cleanses our conscience from the guilt and shame of sin is the blood of Christ, who dealt with our sin sufficiently on the cross.

The author of Hebrews confirms the necessity of Christ's blood to "purify our conscience" and enable us to serve God properly: "For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God" (Hebrews 9:13-14).

Third, as you confess your sin and ask for mercy, and as you look to the cleansing power of the blood of Christ, **strive in prayer for full confidence in your standing with God.** A clean conscience is a two-sided coin. On one side, we must not allow feelings of guilt, shame, and failure to rule over us, as if the blood of Christ is ineffective to cleanse us. But on the other side, we must take our stand on grace in full assurance of our place in heaven. Hebrews explains: "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:19-23).

Scan the QR code to read the rest of this article or go to <https://timeintheword.weebly.com>



ONLINE GIVING

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



NEED HELP?

Need help with a practical need? Your deacon is here to help make the resources of the church available to you. Email our secretary Jenn if you do not know who your deacon is (secretary@NorthHarford.org)

Danny Akers daneakers@gmail.com

Lew Carter joppatrans1@gmail.com

Mark Evans evansmark@yahoo.com

Dave Good (Chairman) davidpgood@aol.com

Wayne Hudson quallybear.usmc@gmail.com

John McDonald jmcdonald47@yahoo.com

Need a pastoral visit for prayer, comfort, or encouragement? Do you need Christian counselling or guidance? Do you have a theological question? Your pastors are here to help. Don't be afraid to text, call, or email us. We are here for you. Either contact us directly or schedule something through Jenn.

Matt Fortunato (Senior Pastor)

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Scan the QR code or email Jenn at info@NorthHarford.org to sign up for weekly Bible Devotions from Pastor Matt.



Nursery Workers – October 26th

I AM (Crib) – Shannon Lewis and Lynette Winzenried

II AM (Toddlers) – Maria Minichiello and Julia Minichiello

PM– Combined I/II – Dave Good and Linda Perrine

Prayer Intercessor – October 26th – Joan Snyder

Greeters – October 26th – John and Denise McDonald

Ushers – October 26th – Malik Baker-Gore, Bob Burman, Frank Cicone*, Jim Feldbush, Gary McAllister, Tom Neunaber*

Today's Ushers – Kyle Campanella, Bob Doss, Jim Dougherty, Andrew Evans*, Eric Heinze, and Vince Minichiello*

*ushers who greet in the lobby



NORTH HARFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

October 19, 2025

Second Annual **DRIVEN BY THE WORD CONFERENCE**

Saturday, November 8th | 9 a.m. - noon
8:30 a.m. - registration and refreshments

THEME:
THE POWER OF GOD IN SALVATION

READING THE BIBLE IN 2025

This week's readings are:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| ☐ Obadiah | Proverbs 8 |
| ☐ 1 Chronicles 1-5 | Proverbs 9 |
| ☐ 1 Chronicles 6-10 | Proverbs 10:1-16 |
| ☐ 1 Chronicles 11-15 | Proverbs 10:17-32 |
| ☐ 1 Chronicles 16-20 | Proverbs 11:1-15 |

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook)
	After Church	Christmas Choirs Practice (downstairs)
	6:30 PM	Evening Worship* (Church/Facebook)
Tuesday	9:15 AM	Precept Ladies' Bible Study
Wednesday	6:30 PM	GriefShare (Youth Café)
	7:00 PM	Adult Bible Study (Rm. 1)
		Boys Bible Club (1 st -6 th grade boys)
		Girls in Action (1 st -6 th grade girls)
		Youth on Mission (7 th -12 th graders)
Friday	7:00 - 9:30PM	Youth Group
Saturday	11:30 AM	Secret Pal Luncheon

* Nursery Provided (birth-3 years old), Downstairs in Rooms 8 and 9

MORNING WORSHIP

Call to Worship and Announcements

In Christ Alone

Reading: Matthew 26:26-28, The New Covenant

Immortal, Invisible | This Is My Father's World

Offering

SERMON: The Noahic Covenant, part 2
Genesis 9:7-17 (Pew Bible Page 41)

Just As I Am | Closing Prayer

EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome

Reading & Prayer: Matthew 4:13-17, The Baptism of Jesus

Rock of Ages

Reading & Prayer: Deuteronomy 13:1-5, True Prophet

The Church's One Foundation

SERMON: The Revelation of God
2 Peter 1:16-21 (Pew Bible Page 1682)

Lord's Supper* | *Doxology* | Closing Prayer

*Baptized believers may participate in the Lord's Supper

*** If you are able, please help set up tables and chairs for the Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Study after the Evening Service. Thank You! ***

THE WAY OF SALVATION

The salvation of your soul is extremely important to us. We want you to experience the love and forgiveness of God through faith in Jesus. We don't ever want to give you the impression that all you need is religion and doing good deeds. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6).

1. **God** - Do you acknowledge God's authority, that He made the world, made you, and will bring everyone to judgment? (see Ecclesiastes 12:14)
2. **Sin** - Are you convinced of your sin and guilt before the eyes of God, grieved at your wrongdoing, and humbled by God? (see Psalm 51:1-4)
3. **Salvation in Christ** - Do you believe in the gospel of salvation in Christ? That is, do you grasp that He alone is Mediator? That He alone is righteous? That He alone died as a substitute for sinners? That He rose and is the only source of eternal life? (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
4. **Saving Faith** - Do you trust Jesus to forgive your sins and save your soul by the grace of God, not because of your good deeds or religion? (see Ephesians 2:1-10)

VISITING WITH US?

We are glad to have you with us this morning, and we hope God speaks to your heart through the great and wonderful truths of the Bible. Please visit the **Guest Resources** desk in the lobby, where you will find a variety of free gifts for you, including a study Bible for adults and a study Bible for teens. Email us at info@NorthHarford.org if you have any questions or special prayer requests.

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Thank you to Dr. Robert Carter of Creation Ministries International for coming this morning and presenting on "The Alternative: Creation's Competitive Edge." After the worship service, resources will be available in the lobby.

CHRISTMAS CHOIRS PRACTICE TODAY

The youth and adult choir (7th grade and up) and the children's choir (3 year olds - 6th grade) practice downstairs immediately following church. The children meet in Room 1 and the youth/adults meet at the piano in the Fellowship Hall.

SECRET PAL LUNCHEON

Widows and their Secret Pals will gather for the Secret Pal Luncheon on Saturday, October 25th, from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. See Bev Herbert, Sarah Caro, or Shannon Lewis with any questions.

ON THE HORIZON

DRIVEN BY THE WORD CONFERENCE

This is our second annual conference with First Baptist of Perryville. We are hosting this year on Saturday, November 8th, from 9 AM to noon. Arrive at 8:30 AM for registration and refreshments. This will be a deep dive into the way God reaches hearts and saves souls through the preaching of the gospel. The Pastor of First Baptist of Perryville, Sam Brindley, will bring two of the messages. Special guest, Jason Manry, will lead the music. Nursery will be provided for children 3 years old and under. If you can help in the nursery, please see Lynette Winzenried.

GLOW DODGEBALL

The youth favorite, Glow Dodgeball, is coming back to Youth Group on Friday, October 31st. Invite other youth!

BUSINESS MEETING

Our next Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 2nd, at 6 PM.

ON THE HORIZON (CONTINUED)

FIRST FRIDAYS PRAYER VIGIL FOR AMERICA

Join us outside in front of the youth building (or inside if raining) from 6-7 PM every FIRST FRIDAY of the month for a time of focused prayer for America. November 7th is the next one.

LADIES' BONFIRE

The Women's Ministry's annual bonfire at Jeanne Akers' house will take place on Friday, November 7th, at 7:15 PM, following the church's First Fridays Prayer Vigil for America. Bring a snack to share, a chair, and a blanket. Jeanne will also have chairs available.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

We'll have a Fellowship Lunch on Sunday, November 9th, after the morning worship service. The theme is "Your Favorite Fall Dish." If possible, please bring a main dish and a side or dessert to share with your church family. There will be no Evening Worship Service that Sunday.

CHURCH NEWS

BCMD ANNUAL MEETING

If you would like to be a Messenger of our church to represent us at the annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, please let Jenn or one of the pastors know by this Wednesday. The meeting is November 10-11 at Ocean City, MD. More here: <https://bcmd.org/event/the-gathering-2025/>

NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED FOR FIFTH SUNDAYS

We need a second nursery worker for the fifth Sunday morning in Nursery 2 (toddlers) and the fifth Sunday evening (combined nursery). For more information or to volunteer, see Lynette Winzenried.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

OUR ONGOING NEED FOR GRACE: A CLEAN CONSCIENCE

We need daily grace from Jesus to deal with ongoing sin in a biblical and helpful way. Sin is not our master (see Romans 6!) because of Christ, but we still sin internally (in mind and heart) and externally (in word and deed). It is necessary, therefore, for the gospel to shepherd us through feelings of guilt, shame, failure, and evil of our sin. How does a Christian receive grace to cleanse the conscience in the aftermath of sin?

First, go to God for mercy and confess your sin. David exemplifies this in Psalm 51. Part of his prayer is, "Wash

(continues to the next page)

AM Sermon: The Noahic Covenant, part 2

Genesis 9:7-17

Four aspects of God's covenant with Noah.

1. The Parties (vv. 8-10)

2. The Promise (v.11)

3. The Sign (vv. 12-17)

4. The Duties (v. 7)