



September 24, 2021

Elders' Newsletter

"Good-Nature and Good-Sense must ever join;

To Err is Human; to Forgive, Divine." Alexander Pope, 1711

Alexander Pope's poem titled "An Essay on Criticism", is often quoted and misquoted in modern writing and media. Other famous lines from the poem include: "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread", and "A little learning is a dangerous thing". In the quote above, Pope captures our default nature quite accurately; we are prone to err. Whether he intended it as a statement pointing to faith in Christ, I am unsure, but he also depicts the source of our need for forgiveness perfectly as well.

To truly forgive one another from the heart (Matthew 18:21-35), we must enter a sacred space: the foot of the cross - a place where all believers are equally fallen and forgiven. Forgiveness is not verbally granting forgiveness while continuing to hold the offender hostage until they prove how contrite they are or better-still, pay whatever is demanded. Nor is it superficially excusing a wrong while continuing to seethe over the hurt. All sin produces guilt and/or hurt. It's what we do with those feelings that makes all the difference. Being a follower of Jesus gives us a radically different approach to demanding a human sentence/penalty. By viewing one another through the lens of Gospel Truth we can forgive as Jesus forgives and find freedom for ourselves and others. The Gospel is that good.

John, for the Grace Harbor Elder Team

Do you want someone to pray with you?

Please call the church office at 907-747-5706.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 26, 2021

- 10:30 AM Worship Service (Nursery available)

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

- 7 PM Men's Bible Study—Teen Room

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

- 6 AM Morning Prayer—Auditorium.
- 7 PM Women's Bible Study—Zoom

Lead Pastor: John Aden Long
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