



January 2018 - February 2018

Volume 46 Issue 1

## SALT MINISTRY

### Shine a Light of Truth

**Share life, equip and mentor young adults to Love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.**



#### Invite (Young Adults ages 18-30)

##### **Develop relationships**

Instill trust; Respect others; Maintain confidentiality  
Spend time, communicate through cards. Letters, social media, phone

##### **Encourage accountability**

Small groups

#### Provide Basic and Advanced Discipleship

Improve spiritual growth individually through Bible study  
Learn spiritual gifts God has given us and encourage ministry involvement

Offer discipleship training to aid spiritual growth  
Encourage to participate in seminars and retreats

Participate in an accountability team  
Participate in church and fellowship activities

**This is a ministry for Young Adults.**

**Below is a list of activities for January & February below.  
Talk to Don & Ann Klapka for more info @ 410-259-8951.**

**January 7th & 21st - SALT Fellowship (FH)**

**January 13 - SALT Paint event (FH)**

**January 27th - SALT Escape Room - Frederick**

**February 11th & 25th - SALT Fellowship (FH)**

# Guilt, Conviction, and the Danger of Confusing the Two

Things that appear similar can sometimes be diametrically opposed to another. Potassium Cyanide is known to be one of the deadliest poisons known to man whereas table sugar is the ingredient of pleasure for every boy and girl with a sweet tooth. These two very natural products are a world of difference apart in terms of how they affect those who consume them but amazingly you would be hard pressed to differentiate one from another if you saw them. Potassium Cyanide looks nearly identical to table sugar but if you put a teaspoon of the wrong one in your morning coffee you have made a deadly mistake. Guilt and conviction are two moral attitudes that have a great deal in common and can often be confused for one another but I fear if we don't properly distinguish them we might be flavoring our cereal with cyanide.

A few years ago I found out the church where an old friend of mine served as a deacon had failed to properly understand guilt and conviction. This friend in a moment of weakness committed a sin that is sometimes seen as particularly egregious among Christians today. My friend's sin was a private one but he recognized he had sinned and informed the church's leadership of his sin while asking for help to fight this in the future. Instead of thanking the Lord for my friend's quick repentance, his church's leadership decided to fill him with guilt instead. They forced him to drive hours out of the way to meet regularly with a special teacher who would fix him of his filthiness even if it cost him his job to do so and they aggressively removed him from all areas of service in the church. If he didn't comply he would be put before the church to be removed from membership and his secret sins would be told to everyone. This church and as a result of their actions my friend has mistaken guilt for conviction. It's necessary now to define what we mean when we as Christians talk negatively about guilt. Guilt can sometimes be a very objective and helpful term like in a court of law or understanding where we stand before the Father in our sinful state, but this is not the kind of guilt we are talking about. Guilt as in guilt tripping is essentially a kind of shame that is cast upon us by others or ourselves. Guilt can be a shunning or assigning lesser worth for failing to adhere to some pharisaical unbiblical rules but can also be treating someone who has repented of a very real sin in that same kind of way. Guilt or shame embraces a woe is me (or perhaps woe is them) attitude that despairs and sulks rather than producing any kind of true repentance. Guilt doesn't understand Christ's substitution for Christians as it treats Christians who have sinned as being guilty and under wrath even if they repent rather than understanding Christ has taken our sin and given us His perfect righteousness no matter what we do.

Another friend of mine confused his mistake may prove to have even same temptation as the previous friend him as he repented and provide help as he friend began to distance himself from his helping people understand their sin and its for many years had been overcome with thought the church that helped him battle I fear if this friend doesn't repent of Christ's grace on judgment day. This church is actually guilt tripping. How Paul defines conviction for us in with my letter, I do not regret it—you, though only for a while. As it is, I you were grieved into repenting. For you through us. For godly grief produces a whereas worldly grief produces death.”



guilt and conviction in the exact opposite way but longer lasting consequences. This friend battled the and he had a great church that wanted to encourage continued to fight against the sin. At some point this Christian friends and came to believe that his church dangers was unloving and lacked grace. This friend shame because of what sin he struggled with but he shame and sin was causing shame by calling sin sin. apathy to sin he will prove himself to be outside of friend thinks the Biblical conviction he found at his then can we define true conviction? The Apostle 2 Corinthians 7:8-10, “For even if I made you grieve though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss repentance that leads to salvation without regret,

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to point out all the dangerous sins and callousness towards in the Corinthians church. Paul acknowledges pointing these things out grieved them but it was a good grieving, it was conviction. This conviction wasn't pointing out sins to hate them but was pointing out sins because he loved them and wanted them to grow. Conviction then is realizing one's sin and being brought to the practical steps of repentance and Christian growth. For the Corinthians this conviction didn't make them commit suicide like the guilt that overcame Judas, their conviction was actually their joy as it helped them see God's grace to both forgive their sins and to help them fight it. Conviction might seem uncomfortable but it is a very good thing and we must commend those with the courage to convict us of sin.

I fear many modern Christians have forgotten the difference between conviction and guilt even if in less extreme forms than my examples above. Some pastors avoid talking about sin at all because they don't want to guilt trip people or drive unbelievers away. On the other side some hypocritical pastors preach against sin with the fiery indignation of guilt and especially attack the sins of the lost. In the pew this danger is just as apparent. Some Christians hear messages about the dangers of sin and go away thinking they are a hopeless sap that might as well give up. More often today church members who may not truly be converted become enraged when sermons reveal the inadequacies we all have and slander others for supposedly guilt tripping them when they are merely being faithful to the Word. Unless we properly understand guilt and conviction from the top down our churches will never be healthy nor will our Christian walks be fruitful.

A healthy understanding of guilt and conviction will lead to our thriving just as it led to a clear revival of the church in Corinth. I have been part of small groups where we talked openly about our sin and we were willing to confront one another in a healthy brotherly way. Harvest USA in Philadelphia has firm convictions about sexual sins but spends much of their effort rescuing brothers and sisters in Christ from overwhelming shame or guilt through our hope in Jesus. 18<sup>th</sup> century pastor Jonathon Edwards was known for preaching passionately against sin but the comfort he offered to sinners was every bit as passionate. Christian communities where sin is talked about openly, loving confrontation is normal, and grace is showered on the repentant are beautiful sights to see. This kind of community is not a far off hope but can be the reality for a spiritually growing church.

Too many of us have failed to distinguish spiritual cyanide and spiritual sugar. This confusion is dangerous. For those Christians given guilt over conviction the confusion will tie them in bondage and could even kill them. For the professing Christian who sees conviction of sin as guilt, this will at best cripple their growth but at worst this will result in eternal damnation. Maybe I have mixed the metaphors, perhaps confusing cyanide and sugar is like the far worse mistake of confusing conviction and guilt.

***Pastor Tony Trussoni***





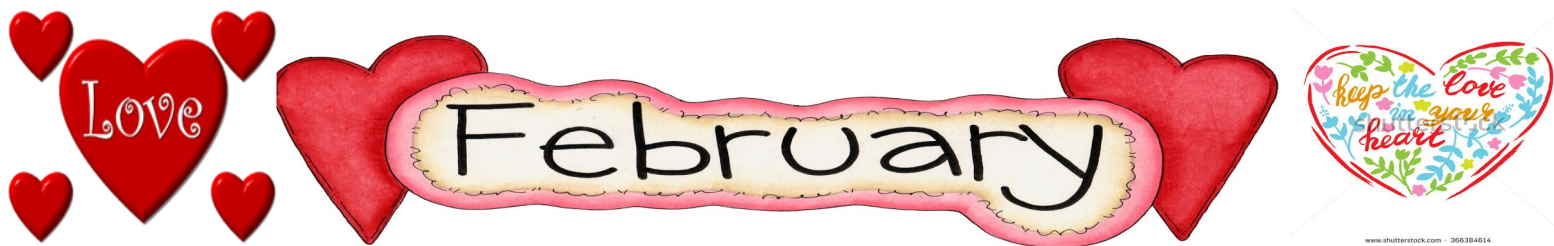
# January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  New Year's Day	2  7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	3  6:00pm Children's Choir 6:45pm Youth /AWANA; Mission Friends	4  9:30 am WOG Fall Bible Study NOON Silver Sages Luncheon - Bullocks 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	5  YOUTH REBOOT - SKYCROFT, Jan. 5-7	6 8-10 am 318 Men's Ministry Prayer Breakfast  9 am Take down Decorations
7 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 12:30 pm Youth Secret Pal Reveal (MP) 1-2 pm SALT (FH) 6:00pm Sanc. Singers	8  7:00pm MOSAIC practice	9  8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast  7 pm Security Mtg. (OCR)	10  6:00pm Children's Choir 6:45pm Youth /AWANA; Mission Friends	11  9:30 am WOG Fall Bible Study  7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	12  7:00pm New Life for Girls	13  8 am - 12 pm SALT Paint Event (FH)
14 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am MOSAIC 12:30 pm Kingdom Cadets Mtg. (207) 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	15  Church Office Closed  7:00pm MOSAIC practice	16  10:00am Heart to Heart  7:00pm Admin Team (107)	17  6:00pm Children's Choir 6:45pm Youth /AWANA; Mission Friends	18  9:30 am WOG Fall Bible Study  7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	19  10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry	20
21 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 1-2 pm SALT (FH) 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	22  7:00pm MOSAIC practice	23	24  6:00pm Children's Choir 6:45pm Youth /AWANA; Mission Friends	25  9:30 am WOG Fall Bible Study  7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	26	27 SALT Fellowship Escape Room Event - Frederick
28 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 12:30 pm Child/Worker Appreciation Lunch (FH) 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	29  7:00pm MOSAIC practice	30	31  6:00pm Children's Choir 6:45pm Youth /AWANA; Mission Friends			







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 am WOG Fall Bible Study NOON Silver Sages Luncheon - Bullocks 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	2 10:30 am Shepherds Table	3 5-7 pm Family Feast & Fun Night
4 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 11:15 pm Sanct. Singers Pot Luck (FH)	5 7:00pm MOSAIC practice	6 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast (Baughers) 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	7 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:45pm Youth /AWANA; Mission Friends	8 9:30 am WOG Fall Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	9 7:00 pm New Life for Girls	10 Youth Lock - In
11 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am MOSAIC 1-2 pm SALT (FH) 6:00pm Sanct. Singers	12 7:00pm MOSAIC practice	13	14 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:45pm Youth /AWANA; Mission Friends	15 9:30 am WOG Fall Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	16	17
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25 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSAIC 1-2 pm SALT (FH) 6:00 pm Sanct. Singers	26 7:00 pm Rescue Mission 7:00pm MOSAIC practice	27	28 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:45pm Youth /AWANA; Mission Friends			

Church House Collection ©



Thank you all for making Christmas happier for many people.

We gave gifts to New Life for Girls and their young children.

Thirteen food baskets were given out. Mission Friends made gifts to give to people outside their families. Ninette LeGates Sunday School class gave 13 filled stockings to Shepherd's Staff. I hope you all were blessed this Christmas.



Our Christmas gift to the Rescue Mission men will be done in February. There are still many items needed. We visited the men on Christmas evening but many were with families. That is why the gifts will be given out in February. Items still needed are: 4 deodorants, 7 bars of soap, 23 bottles of shampoo, 28 large toothpaste, 4 toothbrushes, 5 large white bath towels and 12 pair of socks. Please bring these items in and put them in the Mission Barrell before February.

Have a great New Year but please remember that missions goes on all year long.

*Mary Reeb*

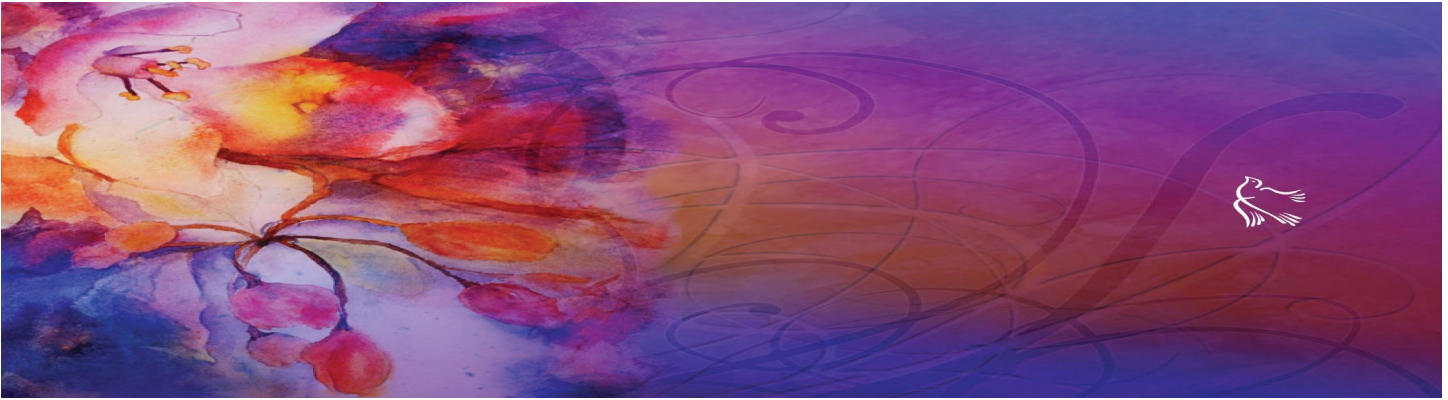


Pray for Missions



**Our next Haiti Mission Trip  
March 15th - 22nd, 2018**

Please be in prayer for Pastor Glen and the team as they prepare to minister to the people of Haiti. Pray that the people of Haiti will have hearts ready to receive Jesus and learn about His word.



**SALT Ministry  
Paint Event  
to benefit Haiti**



**January 13th 9 am - 12 pm.**

**\$25.00 per person** in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information or to sign up, please contact

Don and Ann Klapka (410) 259-8951.

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**Child/Worker Appreciation Lunch, Sunday, January 28th at 12:30 pm**

in the Fellowship Hall. Come on out and let Pastor Tony show appreciation for all you do to serve the children at Westminster Baptist Church. Please let Pastor Tony know if you are able to attend.





(Former) Pastor's Paragraphs,

As my first official act as your former (now retired) Pastor, I want to say, on behalf of both Dianne and myself, "Thank you!"

Thank you for your generous Christmas gifts and the retirement gift collected from among the church membership.

Thank you for my retirement banquet back in November which was truly done well! It will be long remembered and cherished. Thank you Buddy Landrum for the fantastic pictures from that night, and Barbara Copoulos for the amazing scrapbook you presented to us, documenting our years of ministry here. Thank you, Lynn Johnson, for the beautiful message in song you sang that night. Thank you, Pastor Glen for your role as Master of Ceremonies. Thanks to all who prepared for, participated and spoke in that event.

Thank you for the combined service on our last Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, which ended with the Pastors and Deacons praying over us. That was a lump in-the-throat, tears-of-joy moment for both of us. And that was not all; the service was followed up by a "Cookie Fellowship" in honor of WBC's own "Cookie Monster!" The cookies and cakes were delicious. (We are still enjoying some of them as of this writing!)

Most of all, thank you for your years of support, encouragement and partnership in ministry. Pray for us as we begin our new ministry and we will certainly be praying for, what will continue to be, our "church home," WBC.

We love you all.

(Former Senior Pastor)

Pastor Larry

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