

“By This Deed You Have Utterly Scorned the LORD”

2 Samuel 12:15-25

“David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD’. And Nathan said to David, ‘The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child that is born to you shall die.’”

- *The Theology of Sickness, Disease, and Death:*
 - All Creation, even those that are saved, do not escape physical corruption, disease, futility, and death in this life. This is because of the fall (Romans 8:20-23). In Christ, all of our sufferings go from God’s judgment to God’s purifying power to make us more like Christ (Romans 8:17-18).
 - God at times uses sickness and death as a means to save us from falling away from Christ or from falling into even more destructive and devastating sin (1 Corinthians 11:29-32).
 - God at times uses sickness and death to demonstrate His judgment on unbelievers (Acts 12:22-23).
 - God at times uses sickness, disease, death, and disaster as an evidence of His wrath to bring people to repentance, when they hear the gospel (Luke 13:1-5; Amos 4:6-10).

- *The Awfulness of Sin:*
 - David had committed a **presumptuous sin**, that is, a sin committed with full knowledge that this action is sinful. A sin done with premeditation and done deliberately (Psalm 19:13).
 - In committing these sins, David was **scorning the name of the LORD**. David, as a child of the LORD, brought shame to the LORD by his behavior. God’s reputation was tarnished because of the behavior of David.
 - God has revealed Himself, in His Word, as a God who is just, holy, loving, graceful, forgiving and wrathful. **His Name is scorned** when we don’t treat Him as if this is true (Deuteronomy 28:58-61).
 - Fasting as a demonstration of repentance and humility before God (Nehemiah 9:1-3; Daniel 9:3-6; Joel 2:12-14; Jonah 3:7-9).
 - David knew that God at times relented of His threatened judgment by offering grace and mercy to His people.
 - David, just like Job, worshiped God in His giving and taking away, knowing that God is infinitely wise, good, and just in all that He does (Job 1:20-21; 2:9-10).
 - We reap what we sow....Galatians 6:7-8.
 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked.
 - If we sow to the flesh we will reap corruption.
 - If we sow to the Spirit we will reap eternal life.

“You are God; Your ways are always right. If my affliction can vindicate Your holiness and justice and can be used to impress on others the seriousness of sin, so be it. I submit to Your infinite wisdom in Your loving dealings with me.”

Announcements:

★**SERVICE TIME CHANGE & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT!!** On Sunday, December 24th, we will be transitioning to our morning worship service time! This will be our Christmas Eve service, at 10:30am. *We will NOT be having an evening service on Christmas Eve!* Christmas Eve is a great opportunity to invite friends, relatives, and co-workers to join you for church.

*A note to all parents: There will be NO Children's Ministry for the Christmas Eve service. Please know that you are welcome to use the Flex Room at the back of the sanctuary if at any point you need to remove your child from our gathering. One parent must be in the Flex Room with their child at all times.

★**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY:** Our annual New Year's Eve Party will be on Sunday, December 31st, at Andy Wesley's house. The festivities will start at 6pm and last until midnight! Please plan on joining us for a fun night of games and food and fellowship!

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner THIS Sunday, December 3rd, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something to the dinner. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!

★**COMMUNION:** We will be celebrating and partaking of Communion together as a church body THIS Sunday, December 3rd.

★**MEMBERS' MEETING:** We will be having a short Members' Meeting on Sunday, December 10th, immediately following the worship service. This meeting is to present the 2024 budget and to give the members a couple of updates. If you are a current church member, please plan on staying for this meeting!