

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

A RESPONSE

By Jeff Sweeten

There seems to be no end to the excitement and disappointment within the chambers of the city and county of Hamilton. This article is not written in support or condemnation of any ongoing activity; I'm not privy to relevant details. However, there are general observations that stand universally in all malfeasance.

One, accidents happen, mistakes are made and poor decisions occur; they constitute the reality of life *"for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). However, it is not so much that we make mistakes as it is how we deal with them. Paul would make this distinction clear: *"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death"* (2 Corinthians 7:10). How one manifests the sorrow attendant to sin is critical, eternally. Kind of like the kid who got caught with his hand in the cookie jar. Is he crying because he did something wrong or just because he got caught?

Two, in categorizing sin, most have an intentional nature about them. So many sins, of which we are guilty, are not accidental. One does not lie accidentally; one may mis-speak because the information they repeat is flawed, but the malice of lying is not just a random mishap, it's calculated, intentional and narrative based. Likewise, one does not just look up one day and say, "What, I'm fornicating?" To the contrary, intentional sin is a choice, a poor one, but a calculated and often premeditated choice.

Finally, three, simply put, *"...behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out"* (Numbers 32:23). All sin is ultimately against God and it is a puzzle to me that we simple humans think we can outsmart God. Jeremiah puts things into perspective by conceding: *"O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps"* (Jeremiah 10:23). About the time we think we have Ford's "better idea," it's not; usually, tragically not.

Perhaps, as magistrates, judges and lawyers do their thing, we should forego the temptation of taking sides for or against somebody and return to God with the understanding that none of us are beyond God's justice. Godly sorrow is always a right response to sin.

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