

For GC Discussion

- How do our lives sometimes mirror the attitudes of those who set about building a tower to reach up to heaven?
- What can we learn from the example of Jesus, and others in the Scriptures on how to deal with pride?
- What practical steps can we take to remove pride from our lives and start living in humility?

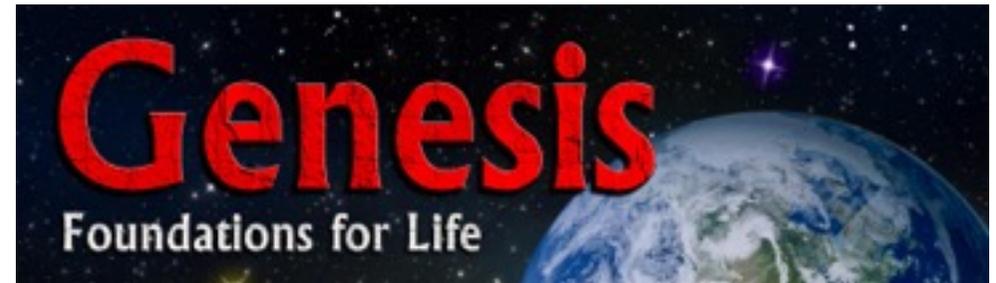
For the Kids

Do you sometimes live in a way that is proud? How do you think you could stop yourself doing this?

Next Week: we begin part 2 of the series as we begin to look at the life of Abraham, the 'Father of Faith.'

Notes and Questions

For Worship: Listen to '*Humble King*' by Brenton Brown. You can find it on YouTube, or on the Hill City Church blog on the website.



Week 6: The Tower of Babel: Pride - Ch 11

This Weeks Summary

This week we saw the continuing corruption of the hearts of men following the flood. Pride causes man to try to reach up to heaven, when what we really need is heaven to come down to us.

For Study:

- Read **Isaiah 2:6-22** and God's opinion of the proud, and the consequences of this kind of attitude.
- Read **James 4:1-17** which talks about the sources of pride and what our response should be.
- Read **Jeremiah 9:23-24** speaking of the proper source of our boasting.
- Read **Philippians 2:1-11** and ask what we can learn from Jesus' example of humility.
- Read **Proverbs 8:13, 11:2, 13:10, 16:5, 16:18-19, 18:12, 21:4, 21:24, 25:27, 26:12, 27:2 and 29:23** - see if you can pick out the common thread!

This week we finished the first part of our series in Genesis - 'The World God made and the one we did'. Here is a summary of what we've looked at in the last few weeks:

1. A God who is incomparable:

Genesis 1 introduces us to the God of not just the world we live in, but the God of the entire universe. It begins to answer for us in no uncertain terms the big 'why' questions of life that everyone is asking - we came from, belong to, and are accountable to the God of the Bible, and if we want to find any meaning or purpose in life we must go to Him. In a few relatively short verses the chapter introduces us to a God who is inconceivable to us in His magnitude. It doesn't take long to realise just how great a God He must be to be able to create the entire universe - stars and planets, mountains and lakes, trees and plants, animals, birds and fish - simply by speaking. In fact, Genesis 1 introduces us to a God who is truly indescribable no matter how advanced we may think our vocabulary to be. He truly is a God who is worthy of our worship and praise, and a God who we would be foolish not to give our full attention.

2. God is good and we are the crown of His affection:

Thankfully we find out that the God of Genesis 1 is not just awesome beyond our understanding, but He is also good. Genesis 2 shows us that we as human beings have been given a privileged place in God's creation - the only part of God's world that is said to be made 'in His image'. God demonstrates His goodness and love by showering Adam and Eve with good gifts - a beautiful garden, all the fruit they could want, a community to live in, and not least a relationship with Himself. This view of God as one who delights to bless His people must remain with us not just through the rest of our study on Genesis, but through the rest of the Bible as the nature of the now fallen world does its best to distort our view of God into one of a harsh, unfeeling tyrant who prefers to punish rather than bless when this couldn't be further from the truth.

3. Sin is pervasive, serious, and because of it judgment is coming:

Immediately that Adam and Eve broke the one law that God gave them, sin began to spread - we're not given much detail, but through Cain and Abel, and up to chapter 6 we find that sin had corrupted the hearts, intentions and actions of men so much that God is regretting His decision to create, and deciding to wipe out humanity and start again. We find that a world separated from relationship with God will inevitably choose to fall into all kinds of evil - relationships are destroyed, lives are ruined, and

even those that seem to do right do so with wrong motives. God teaches us just how serious sin is by sending the flood - not with the purpose of sorting the problem of sin as we can see from the wicked world that we still live in - but to show us the consequences of continuing to live apart from Him and rejecting His offers of grace. One man stands out from the rest - not because he is sinless, far from it, but because he responds to the word of God showing him the way of salvation:

4. Salvation is provided:

As we move into the account of the flood we find that Noah is in exactly the same boat as the rest of the world (no pun intended!) - he is a sinner, and as such is deserving of the righteous judgment of God in the flood. However God has other ideas and provides Him with the way of escape - all Noah has to do is accept God's offer of salvation by faith. I'm sure building the ark wasn't easy, but the principle is simple - believe God and act upon it and you'll be safe, reject Him and you'll perish. Exactly the same principle still applies - God no longer saves with a huge wooden boat, but He does save with a small wooden cross, and all we must do is to believe and act upon the offer of salvation in Jesus. We can't save ourselves any more than those outside the ark could stay afloat for months on end, but if we come to God by faith we can be welcomed into the safety of the family of God, secure in the knowledge that our future is no longer judgment, but glory, no longer hell but heaven.

5. What are we building with now?:

The last two messages of this first part of our series have two sets of people, building their lives upon very different foundations. Noah set about the immense task of building the ark, not for his own glory but out of obedience to the word of God, and for the salvation of his family. His life was lived by faith - he probably had all kinds of opposition, but he endured believing implicitly in what God had said. The tower of Babel on the other hand was a monument, not to faith in God, but to the worship of man, built out of pride, self-sufficiency and independence, all of which are worthy of the judgment of God. We too have a choice - will we like Noah live our lives by faith in what the Bible says regardless of what we feel, or what the world might tell us, or will we choose to build our own tower of Babel - to show off our own achievements to the world, and even to God. That consequences of the choice we make are immense in their seriousness - may God help us all to build not on the sand, but on the rock (Matt 7:24-27), not with wood, hay and stubble but with gold, silver and precious stones (1 Cor 3:10-15).