

I Can't Kick This Thing—Help Me Jesus!

May 31, 2020 ser3940 God Made Me that Way, Pt4

I. POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. Today we continue our series, “God Made Me that Way, by looking at the topic, “I Can't Kick this Thing!”



Immediately two images come to my mind. The first is a pastor who was on the GCCC staff during our Theatre days, ([show photos of Theatre](#))

and when we first moved to the facility we are in now. ([show photo of Chapel Hts, p 2](#))

If a beautiful woman would pass by, or there was a dessert that was loaded with calories, or anything else that was forbidden, or would cause him to be jealous, he would say, “Help me Jesus!”

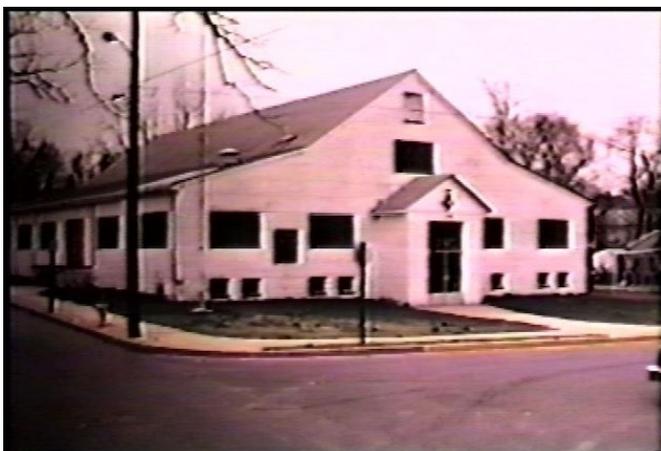


It's funny how certain expressions are contagious. There are times I'll do the same thing. I'll be tempted by

something // wouldn't you like to know what it is? Smile! I'm not telling you // I'll find myself saying, "Help me Jesus!"



The other image is hearing Terry Clark, a singer-songwriter we have had at GCCC since our PMC days ([show photo](#)). I can so clearly see Terry singing these words about repeating the same stupid sin. I believe his words were ... well, let's listen to them.



([show video of Terry Clark singing, "Fly Like an Eagle." If no video, play song and show photo, p3](#))

B. Here's the reality—some manage to kick that "same old stupid thing" in this life, some kick it in the next. Granted, Terry's context is slightly different, but it is fitting for this series and today's sermon. Sadly, those who don't know Jesus will never kick it, but live with their sin into eternity. Still others

who don't kick it in this lifetime need not fear because Jesus "kicked" it for them. **Romans 8:1** is resolute when it states,

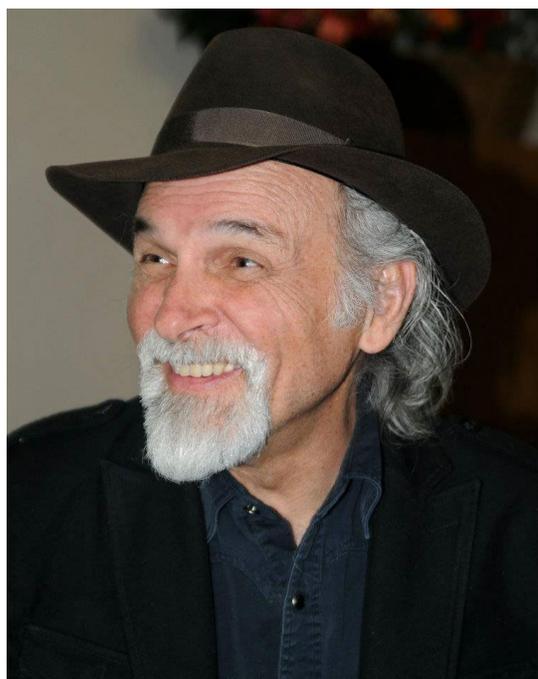
There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus

HOW MANY FUNERALS HAVE I OFFICIATED—FAR TOO MANY—of young men and women defeated in this lifetime by an addiction who live in victory today, in the presence of the Deliverer? And the Church said, "Amen!"

Colossians 1:21-23

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, **to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—** ²³ if [that's conditional] **indeed you continue in the faith, ...**

*emphasis mine



C. Yes, SALVATION IS CONDITIONAL, and here's the condition: **Romans 10: 12-13**

¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon

Him. ¹³ For “**whosoever** shall call on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

NOTE: The promise in Christ is NOT conditional. ***John 1:12*** says,

“To as many as received Him (Christ), to them He gave the right/the power, to become children of God, even to them who believe on His name.”

Our salvation is in Him, in Christ. Not in the church. Not in our deeds. Not in the sacrament. Not in our baptism—although baptism is something EVERY believer should do and is commanded to do. Not in our parent’s faith. Not in our pastor’s faith—God knows that won’t get you there. It’s in Christ ALONE.

Acts 4:12 could not make this truth any clearer:

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

D. So, let me ask you a question: “Are you saved?”

Have you received Christ for the forgiveness of sins? If not, at the close of this homily, I’ll give you an opportunity to do so. I was not quite five years of age when I received Christ, and it was the best decision I have ever made. It will be yours too.

II. OK! BACK TO “I CAN’T KICK THIS THING—HELP ME JESUS!”

A. Previously we established that some are fortunate enough to kick that “same old stupid thing” in this lifetime. Yet, others, sadly, for whatever the reason—we’ll allow God to determine that—don’t kick it until they’ve crossed over into Eternity. However, the requirement to be presented without ANY SIN before the Father, is having received Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. For those who don’t, their eternal destination is Hell.

B. We don’t hear much about Hell these days. In fact, many so-called Christians don’t believe there’s a Hell. But Jesus was clear, speaking about Hell more than anyone else in the entire Bible, and twice as many times as He did about Heaven. On more than one occasion Jesus describes Hell. In **Luke 16:23** Jesus says Hell is a place of “eternal torment.” In **Mark 9:43** Jesus says Hell is a place of “unquenchable fire.” In **Matthew 25:30** Jesus tells us Hell is a place of “outer darkness.”

C. Let’s go on record, Hell is no laughing matter. Billy Joel may have penned the words, “I’d rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints; the sinners are much more fun.” First of all, I haven’t found that to be true at all. And secondly, even if it were true, it’s not worth the exchange.

Believe me, Hell’s not worth it. Ever! Ever! Ever! Whatever, you have to “suffer” to believe in Christ and be a Christian—it’s worth it.

III. HOW DO WE KICK BAD HABITS & BESETTING SINS?

A. I would love for us to look at AA's 12 steps—but I'll leave that for Angelina Moore and Chain Breakers. Let's keep it simple; here are three steps:

1. Run from that which trips you up!

Proverbs 22:3

Prudent people see trouble and hide,
while the simpleminded go right to it and get
punished.

ILLUSTRATION: How many times have I seen it coming and thought "I can handle this!" Only to suffer the consequences. LISTEN! Satan is tricky. He'll let you win a few times and make you think, "I've got it!" But the day will come when you don't have it. Don't think you can manage sin—you can't. Run from it! And the Church said, "Amen!"

2. Aspire to change.

Colossians 3:1-2

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

You've got to want to change.

NOW, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO CHANGE, BUT YOU KNOW THAT YOU SHOULD WANT TO

CHANGE? Pray. Then pray some more. And after you've prayed "some more," pray even more. Here's how you pray:

"LORD, I like the way I am, but I know you don't like the way I am. So, if you want me to change, change my heart—because that's where my desires live."

Guaranteed! Pray that prayer daily, and often, and one day you'll pray those words and mean them—and things **will** change.

3. Acknowledge who you are in Christ.

Colossians 3:3-4

3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.



ILLUSTRATION: Have you ever seen a Golden Eagle pecking the ground with a flock of turkeys? **(show turkeys photo)** No! Why? Because Golden Eagles were born to soar, **(show photo, p8)** not gobble along the ground.

When we fully grasp who we are in Christ, there are things we're not going to do. Why? We are new creations (**2 Cor 5:17**); created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (**Ephesians 2:10**).

B. There are things my flesh wants to do that I say “no” to, not because I don’t want that sin, but because I know to whose family I belong.



As Christian men we say, “We’re not going to look at that video or respond to that *spam request* because we’re not going to gobble with the turkeys.” As a Christian woman, you say, “I’m not going to read that romance novel or enter into a relationship online that’s not healthy, or gossip at the lady’s tea.” Why? Because I am a child of God, a Christian. A little Christ.

V. INVITATION

In closing, are you a new creation in Christ? Have you received Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior? It’s the only true way to defeat that “same old stupid thing” in this life and the next. Here’s how:

Admit– your sins have separated you from God. (*Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23*);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.) (*Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22*);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. *(Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);*

Do it today! *(Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).*

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen!

C. Now, here is Cristina to tell you what to do next.

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