

NEWS AND VIEWS
MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

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*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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*Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying,
So a curse without cause does not alight. (Proverbs 26:2)
The curse of the Lord is on the house of the wicked,
But He blesses the dwelling of the righteous. (Proverbs 3:3)*

For those who have been engaged lately in the Body Life of the church at Mount Olivet, these two passages of Scripture have been part of our spiritual conversation. Whether in Midweek Bible Study, Sunday Morning Worship Services, or in our Summer Sessions, the Lord seems to be speaking to us about the condition of the Body of Christ on a local and personal level. In the last couple of years the church has been struggling greatly to maintain our campus facility. The blessing of the privilege of having the use of a large facility has become a burden for a small congregation to provide upkeep on the aging components of the infrastructure. I, for one, have been dismayed that ministry opportunities have escaped us because of financial hardships and continuous shortfalls that seem to be the norm and cost of doing business. Using the term of *doing business* in a church setting begs the questions...are we doing the Lord's business? Are we on mission, making disciples, bringing glory to God, being conformed to His image, growing as ambassadors of Christ in a wicked culture rapidly decaying as a result of sin?

So after many months of praying over these hard realities, in April of this year, the elders brought a recommendation to the church to be willing to sell the facility and relocate to a location the Lord would reveal. After all, it is His church. The church voted to approve that recommendation in April. It seemed wise to take the time to process this decision and not to move too rapidly. So we agreed to meet together in an informal manner to provide a platform in a group setting for people to express their concerns, fears, grief, and joy over what the Lord might be doing in our midst.

A solemn assembly and a time for focused praying and fasting was declared. Out of these times of asking the Lord for direction, more than one of us began to sense that the Lord wanted to do much more than helping us relocate. He wanted to do business with us as a church. He wanted us to be cleansed of anything that will hinder us in end times ministry. I began to be impressed by the leading of the Spirit into studying the causes and cure for a curse. Biblically speaking, I believe that there are at least five areas of sinful behavior as human beings that bring about a curse from the Lord. God's people are susceptible to be affected by these things. The way of the transgressor is hard. And apart from a relationship with Jesus, humanity is already under the curse of sin. But what happens when God's people transgress the way of the Lord? How does that look? Can a body of believers, on a personal and corporate level, bring about a curse of the Lord? Seems as though we can. Consider the following...***The cause of a curse is sin and the Lord provides the cure. Five evident causes of a God sent curse are Rejection of Repentance, Sexual Immorality, Shedding of Innocent Blood, Rebellion Against Godly Authority, and the Breaking of Covenant...***

The appeal today is for anyone with any past, present, or future involvement with Mount Olivet that reads this newsletter to ask the Lord to reveal any unconfessed part they may have played in any of these five areas and repent before the Lord. Whether the sin comes from the leadership to the laity, from the pulpit, the pew, or the praise team, I am writing to anyone who may have been entangled in the sin of any of these areas to seek the mercy of the Lord and His forgiveness. God's business in the church is doing business with sin. It's why Jesus came. To seek and save that which was lost. It is often easier to walk away from church conflict, forgetting sinful thoughts, words, and actions than to do the hard work of making peace God's way. The Lord has revealed to me there are many areas His people are needlessly suffering that can be remedied by trusting Him enough to come to Him, believing that He can cure the curse. The cure for the curse of sin can also be found when we confess our sin to one another (*trust God for that*) and be healed. (*James 5:6*)

My offer to you is to meet with you privately and seek restoration on your behalf, the good of the church, and the glory of God. This is the good news of the gospel. Only the Lord can remove a God sent curse. He stands ready to set us free as the Body of Christ and in our individual relationship with Him. I would really love to hear from anyone carrying around this heavy burden and pray with you and for you. Think upon these things.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam