

Be Strong #31

“Come on Let’s Go!”

I am at home today recuperating from the last of 3 steroid injections in my back. I’ve had a compressed vertebra for 18 years as a result of playing tackle football one afternoon with a few high school football players. They took it out on their old youth minister and slammed me to the ground a few times. You know, through the years almost all of my physical injuries have been youth ministry related. Oh, well! It comes with the territory and I wouldn’t trade any of those injuries for the joy of sharing the experience with young people. Whether it was a broken hand during the Camp Tallowood “Saints and Sinners” game, a busted ear drum as a result of jumping off the top of the **senior house boat** during our annual trip, or the severe infection caused by stepping on a dead catfish dorsal fin while playing football with a bunch of guys, I would do it all again! Well, maybe not the catfish dorsal fin. That hurt like crazy! Well, back to my thoughts about why I am writing. The injections are a minor surgical procedure that only takes about 10-15 minutes, but it warrants a mild anesthesia injection to calm me down and help me to forget everything. I love it! I am very conscious in the middle of the procedure, but once it’s over and the “cocktail” kicks in, I forget almost everything and wonder what happened. I love not being able to remember the pain and go right on with the rest of my day. *Aha!* That reminds me of what God tells us about how he deals with our confessed sin. From his perspective, it’s as if the pain of my sinful deliberate choice never happened. I may still have a few consequences, but look what God says about our sin and how he deals with it, Psalm 103:10-13.



“He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;”

How many times do I wallow in self-pity because of the tragic sinful choice I have made? I know that God says confess your sins and He will be faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, but the enemy lies to us and tells us we need to condemn ourselves and pay a penance for a wrong choice. No! Paul says, “There is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,” (Romans 8:1). Our sins are confessed and He remembers them no more. He simply tells us what Jesus told the disciples when they could not stay awake and pray with him, on the last night he was on earth--- **“come on, let’s go!”**

So how do you deal with your sin? Hopefully you don’t use drugs to help you forget! And you probably can’t get the drug they gave me to put me out during my procedure. But, we’ve got the

promises of God! God's great love and forgiveness! Let's remember His promises and model for our kids his forgiveness and the way that He deals with us. Have an awesome day today as you are remembering that you are your kid's parents!

Be Strong!

Jerome