

## Prayer?

Please list your prayer requests with detailed information of people in need. Thank you!

# NEW TO ECBC?

For more information email [info@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:info@eastcooperbaptist.com)

First Time Guest?

We'd love to get to know you!

SCAN DIGITAL CONNECT CARD



843.856.3222 x PRAY (7729)

[prayer@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:prayer@eastcooperbaptist.com)

## Sermon Notes.

**Speaker:** Buster Brown, Senior Pastor

**Message:** Hope in the Midst of Hardships, Weaknesses, and Failure

**Text:** Galatians 4:15, 19-20; 5:17; 6:1-2

THANKSGIVING/GRATITUDE is based upon the faithfulness and mercies of God in the past; while HOPE is looking towards the future with confidence and joy because of the Abba goodness of the Father, secured by the cross and resurrection of the Son, and applied to our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

*"<sup>15</sup>What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me.*

*<sup>19</sup>my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! <sup>20</sup>I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you." Galatians 4:15, 19-20*

*"<sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do." Galatians 5:17*

*"<sup>1</sup>Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:1-2*

1. There is a strong element or w\_\_\_\_\_ in the daily life of the believer (Galatians 5:17).

*"In this verse Paul sets forth in the starkest terms possible the ethical dualism that rages in the world at large and from which no believer who must live in that real world can be exempt...The word 'flesh' in Paul's vocabulary can not be reduced to the material or physical dimension of the physical person. It is a far more encompassing term involving the mind, will, and emotions as well as the physical body." Timothy George, New American Commentary (NAC)*

2. Because of indwelling sin, all believers are in the ongoing p\_\_\_\_\_ of growth in Christ (sanctification).

3. Unbiblical a\_\_\_\_\_ regarding life can lead to hyper-independence/perceived self-sufficiency which leads to indifference and ultimately isolation or feelings of shame which leads to despair and isolation.

4. We should e\_\_\_\_\_ trouble in this world; therefore we should fortify our hearts. (Proverbs 4:23)

*"We must remember that 'any idea of getting beyond conflict, outward or inward, in the pursuit of holiness in this world is an escapist dream that can only have disillusioning and demoralizing effects on us as waking experiences daily disprove it. What we must realize, rather, is that any real holiness in us will be under hostile fire all the time, as our Lord's was (Heb 12:1-4). It is as certain as anything can be that without watchful prayer*

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## Notes.

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*and a prayerful watch, we shall not be able to stand firm against the world, indwelling sin, and the evil one, but will fall victim to their wiles and blandishments instead." J.I Packer, Keeping in Step with the Spirit*

5. In pursuing r\_\_\_\_\_ hope, we should: repent, renew our minds (Colossians 3:10), and respond in obedience.

*"Putting sin to death does indeed involve repentance, but there's a repentance that frees us and another kind of 'worldly sorrow' that makes us worse (2 Cor. 7:10). This latter kind of sorrow over sin arises strictly out of the fear of punishment...There's another kind of repentance and sorrow for sin that Paul calls 'godly' and that leads to genuine change and cleansing (2 Cor 7:10). It says, 'God will never cast me off. Look what he did so that he would never have to condemn me. Look what it cost my Savior to secure this grace for me! How could I turn away from this kind of love and beauty for this other thing?' This is painful conviction of sin, but it is not mixed with slavish fear. You know he will never forsake you (Heb 13:5). This frees you to focus not so much on yourself but rather on how your sin grieves your loving Savior. That kind of sorrow makes you hate not yourself but the sin that dishonors him. And that genuinely weakens the sin's hold over you."*

*Tim Keller, Hope in Times of Fear*

6. In the mystery of God graciously working with his people, failures, difficulties, and hard times, we find that we can grow stronger in grace in the midst of hardships.

*"One of the most startling (applications) is that God actually uses our sins and mistakes to this end. He employs the educative discipline of failures and mistakes very frequently. It is striking to see how much of the Bible deals with men of God making mistakes, and God chastening them for it..." J.I.Packer, Knowing God*

*"I do not call you unfortunate", said the Large Voice. "Don't you think it was bad luck to meet so many lions?" said Shasta. "There was only one lion," said the Voice. "What on earth do you mean? I've just told you there were at least two the first night and —"*

*'There was only one: but he was swift of foot.'*

*'How do you know?'*

*'I was the lion.' And Shasta gaped with open mouth and said nothing, the Voice continued. 'I was the lion who forced you to join with Aravis (who became your companion and support). I was the cat who comforted you among the houses of the dead. I was the lion who drove the jackals from you while you slept. I was the lion who gave the horses the new strength of fear for the last mile so that you should reach King Lune in time. And I was the lion you do not remember who pushed the boat in which you lay, a child near death, so that it came to shore where a man sat, wakeful at midnight, to receive you.'"*

*C.S. Lewis, The Horse and His Boy*

*"I want you to know how to study theology in the right way. I have practiced this method myself... you will find it in Psalm 119 with these rules. That are frequently proposed throughout the psalms and thus run: pray, meditation, and trial." Martin Luther*

Listen to sermons online at [eastcooperbaptist.com/sermons](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/sermons)

MARCH 17, 2024



[eastcooperbaptist.com](http://eastcooperbaptist.com)



# Welcome.

We're glad you are here to worship with us. If you are new to East Cooper Baptist, we would love to meet you. Please stop anyone with a name-tag and let us answer any questions you may have. Thanks for being our guest.

**Buster Brown**, Senior Pastor  
busterb@eastcooperbaptist.com | 843.856.3222 x2006

**Traditional Worship and Classes**  
Sanctuary 9:30am & 11:00am  
**Contemporary Worship and Classes**  
Worship Center 9:30am & 11:00am

## Ways to Give.

Giving is part of our worship to God. Through your faithful giving, God continues to change lives here in our area and around the world.



**Give in-person** by dropping your gift in any giving box located throughout the church.

**Give online** by visiting our website at: [eastcooperbaptist.com/give](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/give).



**Give via text** by texting the word "GIVE" to 843-202-4848.

## Celebrate.



**Derek Walden**  
4 YEARS SERVING ON  
STAFF AT EAST COOPER

Derek is from London, England. He surrendered his life to Jesus in 2001 after hearing a sermon preached by Buster and served on the East Cooper staff team from 2019-2023. He is married to Peg, enjoys watching the English premier soccer league, and continues to serve our church as an Elder.



## Celebrate With Us.

For more information, please go online.



Good Friday • March 29  
7:00pm in the Sanctuary

Join us on Good Friday as we come together for a special service in honor of the work Christ our King did for us on the cross. During this service, we will be taking communion together. Children of all ages worship with parents.



Easter Sunday • March 31  
Contemporary & Traditional Services  
at Both 9:30 & 11:00am

You are invited to celebrate our Risen Savior on Easter Sunday at East Cooper! Services will be in both the Worship Center and Sanctuary at both hours. The Nursery Hallway for birth through 2 years will be open at both hours. All other ages are invited to worship with their parents. We look forward to celebrating with you!

[eastcooperbaptist.com/easter](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/easter)

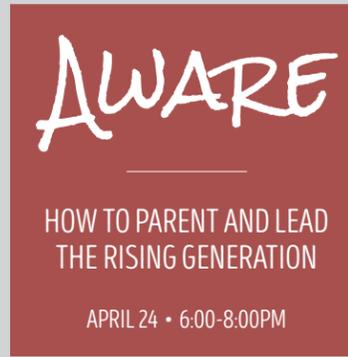


361 Egypt Road • Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 • 843.856.3222

## Upcoming.

### AWARE CONFERENCE

The Aware Conference will feature Dr. Tim Elmore, a leading researcher and effective communicator. He will share about how best to lead, love, teach, and parent Gen Z and Gen Alpha. Ticket Cost: \$10 per person, \$12 per married couple.



GET TICKETS.

[eastcooperbaptist.com/aware](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/aware)

### CITY SERVE

Join us on March 23 from 8:00am-2:00pm to serve our city. We will meet in the gym for breakfast and then head to serve sites to meet various needs in our community.



REGISTER ONLINE.

[eastcooperbaptist.com/events](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/events)

### CONNECT CAMPS

Connect Camps is a one-week, day camp filled with non-stop fun, engaging activities, daily faith-based lessons, and the chance to make lasting friendships. Runs from June 10-14. Scholarships are available online.

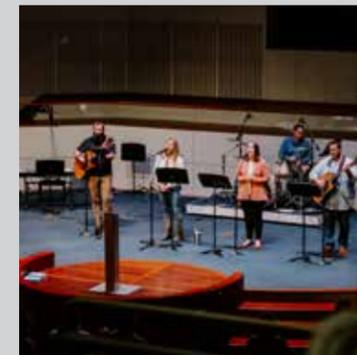


REGISTER TODAY.

[eastcooperbaptist.com/kids](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/kids)

### SERVE ON THE WORSHIP TEAM

Sunday morning worship is such a vital part of our church! It takes a team of volunteers to help bring music to our venues! If you are gifted musically and desire to use it, volunteer today.



SIGN UP TODAY!

[eastcooperbaptist.com/serve](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/serve)

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## Hello.

Please complete the perforated section and take to the Welcome Desk or place in any giving box located around the church.

I/We attended worship at:

9:30am  11:00am

I am a first time guest

Name

Spouse

Birthdate

Spouse Birthdate

Address

City

State

Zip

Mobile

Spouse Mobile

Email

Spouse Email

Preferred method of contact:

Call  Text  Email

Interested in the following:

Become a Christian

Join the Church

Meet with a Pastor

Subscribe to newsletter

Other