

MARKET STREET

"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)



MESSENGER

**Market Street
church of Christ**
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No. 35

What Does Forgiveness Mean?

Adam Willingham

How would you define the word "forgive"? Answer the question in your mind. Give a very precise definition. If you're tempted to google it, **Don't** (I bet I caught some of you red handed)!

The word has a variety of definitions. The New American Oxford Dictionary defines it this way: "stop feeling angry or resentful toward (someone) for an offense, flaw, or mistake." That's a shallow definition, to say the least. At the other extreme is a more comprehensive definition I heard a gospel preacher give once: "to restore the offender back to the former affections of the offended one."

Given the fact that Jesus requires us to forgive others if we are to be forgiven by God (Matthew 6:14-15), wouldn't you say it's pretty important that we understand forgiveness like Jesus did? Otherwise, we could think we're forgiving people when we really aren't.

How, then, can we formulate a Biblical definition? We could look at Greek and Hebrew words used for forgiveness, but that would only get us so far. Ultimately we have to look at context. Words are always defined by the context in which they are used.

To start, consider the passage referenced above, Matthew 6:14-15: "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions." Whatever "forgive" means on God's part, it has the same meaning on our part. What does it mean for God to forgive us? Merely to stop feeling angry about our sin? No! It means He removes our sins and regards us as if we had never committed them. That's exactly what it means for us to forgive others: we must treat them as though they had never committed the sins. (This doesn't rule out any and all consequences for their sins, however.)

Next, consider Matthew 18:23-35. Jesus tells a parable about a king who forgives a massive debt which a servant had incurred. That very servant then refuses to forgive a relatively small debt incurred by a fellow servant. As a result, the king, in his anger, severely punishes the unforgiving ser-

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblenz..... (256) 232-3312
Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Joel Hamm (256) 278-1977
Danny Holt (256) 206-2746
Larry Mitchell..... (256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

vant. The point of the parable is, again, to forgive others like God. However, in this passage we gain new insight into the meaning of forgiveness. It means to release a debt. Sin is “debt.” In the model prayer Jesus taught to say, “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” When someone sins against you, they’re indebted to you. They owe you something. To forgive is to mercifully erase the debt ledger, no longer requiring what, by right, is due to you.

Therefore, a good starting point for a Bible definition of “forgive” is this: to willingly clear the record of the offender, regarding the individual as if the transgressions had never occurred. If you define it differently, your definition will fall far short of the Word of God. And so will your life.

~via *Palm Springs Drive Bulletin*; Altamonte Springs, Florida.



Greatest Fear

Nathan Peeler

Everyone is afraid of something. Fears range from the common, such as fear of flying or heights, to the less common akletrophobia (fear of chickens) and globophobia (fear of balloons).

I know that many peoples’ main phobias are public speaking and death. According to most surveys taken, people fear public speaking more than death! This led one comedian to say, “This means that if you go to a funeral you would rather be in the casket than giving the eulogy!” I definitely understand people’s fear of public speaking and it is not fun to get in front of an audience and speak to them about any subject. After you do it more and more it gets a little easier, but after 7 years of occasional preaching and 8 years of full-time preaching, I will tell you the fear never fully goes away.

However, not everyone will have to experience the fear, sweaty palms, and nauseous feeling which come with standing up to speak to an audience, but all will have to face the fear of death because all will die. There is an element of fear to death because we are plunging into the unknown. We don’t know what will happen to us after we die or the order of events which we will go

through; we just know we will. A tremendous fear and no way to avoid it, this fear must be faced.

The Bible reminds us that death is certain and we will all face it:

Ecclesiastes 2:16b: “And how the wise man and the fool alike die”

Ecclesiastes 3:2a: “A time to give birth and a time to die...”

Ecclesiastes 6:6: “Even if the other man lives a thousand years twice and does not enjoy good things—do not all go to one place?”

Ecclesiastes 9:5a: “For the living know they will die...”

Hebrews 9:27: “And inasmuch as it is appointed for me to die once and after this comes judgment...”

But how do we as Christians face our fear of death? When it comes time for us or a loved one to pass on from this life then how should we respond?

• **We are going to be with the Lord**

While we don’t know the sequence of events we should take comfort in the fact that if we are a child of God, we are going to be with the Lord. No matter if you are alive when the Lord returns or you have already passed on, Paul tells us in the final day “we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:17). Jesus tells us He is preparing a place for us so that He may “come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:3).

• **Where we are going is far better than where we are**

When we look at this world, we see sin, pain, sickness, disappointment, and agony. We get increasingly frustrated at life on so many levels and yet for some strange reason we want to remain here. We are going to a place where none of these things exist (Revelation 21:4)! Paul realized the persecutions he experienced were nothing in comparison to what was waiting for him (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)! Nothing was better for Paul than the thought of going to be with Christ (Philippians 1:23).

• **We can have confidence in afterlife**

Lastly, we can have confidence life after death because it was promised to us by God who cannot lie (Titus 1:2). God always keeps His promises and for that we can rejoice! God’s plan of eternal life was from long ages ago because He has always wanted the creation made in His image to share an eternity with Him!

~via *Spring Warrior Weekly Newsletter*; Perry, Florida.

Noah The Movie

Jesse Flowers

Well, there sure has been a whole lot of buzz about the new “Noah” movie. I’ve heard both positive and negative things about it. And from what I’ve seen and heard the movie is nothing like the real story found in the Bible.

In the movie, Noah is presented as a demented individual who cannot figure out what God (or the Creator) wants from him. He looks like (and his family considers him) to be a madman.

In the Bible, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8), and is described to us as “a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God” (Genesis 6:9). Also the Bible presents Noah as someone that understood exactly what God expected of him, and so “Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him” (Genesis 7:5).

In the movie, Shem gets a wife. Noah abandons Ham’s prospective wife. Shem’s wife conceives and gives birth to twin girls while on the ark. In fact, as disturbing and troubling as it may sound, Noah seems to think his mandate is to murder his granddaughters in order to cause all of mankind to cease.

In the Bible, we simply read – “On the very same day Noah and Noah’s sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark” (Genesis 7:13). Furthermore, we read of no babies being born during their entire time on the ark (Genesis 7-8).

In the movie, as one critic described: “they avoided using the word “God” and instead used the word “Creator” and demonstrated a very aggressive agnostic and environmentalist agenda. The movie clearly presents the fact that God destroyed the world because of man... but it seems to be because of physical, environmental pollution.”

In the Bible, the world that then existed was destroyed because of the wickedness and corruption of mankind (Genesis 6:1-7, 11-13). The fact of the flood and a few of the names are about all the story line has in common with Scripture.

Let us always rely on the Bible for the truth (John 17:17). Let us use this as a teaching opportunity in our conversations with others (1 Peter 3:15). And let us all be reminded that “the heavens and the earth which

are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (2 Peter 3:7).

~via *Pruett & Lobit Street*, Baytown, Texas.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Helen Blankenship	Jo Dunnivant
Mildred Lambert	Gayle Ball
Mitzi Carruth	Freddie Mae Elmore
Doris Lovell	Patsy Thomas
Cindy Glass	Linda Jones
Ashley Sims	Ann Bush
Wayne Gooch	Kaleigh Conn
Brooke Morris	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard	Irene Inman
Janice Cagle	Jeanette Weir
Priscilla Tucker	Roger Whitt
Jenny Pickens	Ella Melvin
Daniel Ogles	Everette “Bud” Dollar
Linda Ordonez	Wayne Wooldridge
Cindy Walker	Brittany Bates Carter
Gene Carpenter	Charles Burns
Betty Christopher	Bobby McLemore
Al Pollard	Ava Brooke Campbell
Elizabeth Howard	Matt Poff
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville
Grady Threet; Florence Rehab - Florence

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61	Helen Trousdale, rm. 43
Dorothy Draper, rm. 73	Oneal Martin, rm. 81
Joyce Martin, rm. 73	Mable Crafts, rm. 39
Matty Murray, rm. 2	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
Wynell Casteel, at home
Marjorie Dunnivant, at Brookdale Farms, Huntsville
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter’s home in Hartselle
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

Updates:

Helen Blankenship will be going back to the doctor this week for additional tests for the weak spells she is having ... **JoAnn Gilbert** is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on Tuesday at Athens-Limestone ... **Donna Wright** came home from the hospital on Monday and is making good progress in her rehabilitation... **Lona Jackson's granddaughter, Brooke Morris**, had her surgery on Thursday in Huntsville at Crestwood Hospital for para thyroid... **Gayle Ball** returned to the doctor on Thursday for a follow-up on her surgery. The pathology report was good... **Mildred Lambert** is waiting for word to get injections in her back for the pain she has been experiencing.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group One will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group tonight.

NEXT SUNDAY: A week from today, September 3rd, the Chumbleys will be with us as Buc joins us in our work here. There will be a potluck lunch at the Athens Bible Cafeteria. I hope that everyone will be able to bring their lunch and join us there.

AWAY AT SCHOOL: Remember our young people that are away in college:

- Brettlyn Currier*, at Auburn University
- Keenon Currier*, at the University of Alabama
- Austin Hobson*, at the University of North Alabama
- Griffin Holt*, at the University of Alabama
- Drew Ogles*, at Auburn University
- Christian Usery*, at LaGrange College
- Elizabeth Usery*, at Mississippi State University

OUT OF TOWN: The Hamms: *Joel, Sharma, Clayton and Ragan* are returning from a wedding in South Carolina this weekend... **The Peppers:** *Marion and Betty* have also been in South Carolina at the wedding... **Jim Whitt** has been in California with his work this week.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Jim Whitt** and all the family in the passing of Jim aunt, **Billie Sue Whitt**, this past Wednesday evening. Her funeral will be this afternoon at Limestone Chapel. She will be laid to rest in the Roselawn Cemetery.

SERMON IN SONG: This Wednesday night will be a fifth Wednesday and the normal schedule for our Sermon in Song. I hope everyone can be here.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of August 20th*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	137
	Morning Worship	164
	Evening Worship	118
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	80

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Ashton Gatlin
Prayer.....	Harvey Nixon
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Terry Andrews
Assisting	Keith Hinkle
Serving	Charles Vaughn
	Steve Usery
	Matthew Usery.....
	David Terry
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Dwaine Allfrey
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 27th:

Ushers.....	Danny Johnson/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Marty R. Adams

Wednesday, August 30th:

Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading	1 Thessalonians 4:9-18
	Joy Warner
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Invitation.....	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Tommy Coblentz

Sunday, Septmeber 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Harvey Nixon
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Preaching.....	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Holt
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	Marvin Putman
	Marty R. Adams
	A. J. Price
	Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer	Mike Ogles

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Harvey Nixon
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	Marcus Morris
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Larry Holt
Closing Prayer	Joel Hamm

Other Assignments for Sunday, September 3rd:

Ushers.....	Heath Dollar/Dwaine Allfrey
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams