



The Rear View

Hollie and I were travelling up the interstate when we became stuck in a long line of traffic. No one was going anywhere. On the radio the reporter said there was a bad accident involving overturned tractor trailers. We then knew we were not going anywhere for a long time. After playing football on the interstate, we decided to cut through a small path in the woods to the south-bound side so we could turn around. That is when I got to thinking. I'm worried about getting where I am going and people are up there hurt or may have even died. Sadly, we heard later that there were fatalities.

This brought to mind how Solomon said, "Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them" (Ecc 9:11-12). We sure take life for granted, don't we? Time and chance happen to all men.

This isn't intended to make you sad, but to motivate all of us to seize the day. This means making right anything that stands between us and God while we have the opportunity. It also means mending broken relationships with others while the mending can still be done. It means trying to bring a lost person back to God while we still have the chance. We all have things we are putting off till a later time don't we? Take advantage of the opportunity of today, for you do not know what tomorrow may bring. → Aaron Beard

Serving This Month

Lead Singing:

- 6th & 27th AM – Jim Campbell
- 13th & 20th AM – Steve Waid
- 6st PM – Ralph Lyles
- 13th PM – Beau Yarbrough
- 20th PM – Neal Wood

Wednesday Night Talks:

- 9th – Bryan Allen
- 16th – Beau Yarbrough
- 23rd – Buzz Fowler
- 30th – Larry Whitehead

Fourth Sunday Talk:

- 27th – Beau Yarbrough

Visitor Greeters:

- 6th – Ralph and Martha
- 13th – Todd and Lisa
- 20th – Eddie and Dianne
- 27th – Beau and Jackie

News And Notes

- **Prison Ministry:** We're sad to report that we were denied our request for the prison ministry.
- **July 13th** – Elders and Deacons meeting at 4pm. There will be a congregation meeting at 5pm.
- **Friday, July 18th** – Beau & Jackie have invited everyone to their home to see pictures of their recent trip to some of the places named in Acts
- **July 26th** – Monthly class for young people at Aaron & Hollie's house.
- **July 27th** – Song leader's practice at 5pm followed by a singing at 6pm.
- **Buzz Fowler** has been suggested as a potential deacon. If you have any concerns see Buzz or one of the elders soon.



"Nourished in the words of faith... exercise yourself toward godliness." (1 Tim 4:6-7)

A Simple Word About Us

- We're simply Christians and Christ's name is the only name we wear.
- We follow only God's word. We do not adhere to any doctrines, creeds or traditions of men.
- We seek to establish Bible authority in both our daily lives and in the work and worship of the church.
- We welcome an open discussion for all the things we teach & practice.
- We would love to study with you individually.

The Gospel Nourisher

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Forgiveness

Forgiveness. Such an easy word to say, but a very difficult word to practice. When we ask God for forgiveness, it means to remove the barriers of sin. When we forgive, it means to pardon or excuse a fault or offense. Sometimes forgiveness takes time. I have yet to find scripture that says forgiveness is easy. In fact, I find it to be quite the opposite. Yet forgiveness is absolutely necessary for our salvation. Mark 11:25 says, "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." Jesus also said, "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37).

One may ask, "But how many times do we have to forgive someone?" Well, in Luke 17:3-4 Jesus tells His disciples, "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." This means if we have a brother who continually falls to the wayside, but repents, we should have patience, just as God has had patience with us, and forgive him.

Now that is a tough one. At what point do we draw the line? When our family is being hurt, used, or taken advantage of? I don't really have the answer for that yet, but what I do know is

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that these are Jesus' words, therefore, if you do as Jesus has instructed, God will surround you with His help. Remember how much God loves us and remember how it pleases Him to see the likeness of Jesus Christ reflected in our lives. Knowing that helps me to forgive when my human nature says not to. Our power and strength is not of this world, so I encourage you brethren to forgive. Forgiveness is not a sign of weakness, it's a sign of Christ-likeness.

Early in my Christian walk I would hear people say to forgive yourself. I always thought, "How easy is that? This is me we're talking about." I thought was the first person I had forgiven. The truth is, I had not. Only recently did I realize I had not forgiven myself at all. Maybe you think you have forgiven yourself but you have not.

I came to realize that in my prayers I would constantly confess some sins of my youth that weighed me down. I thought it would take a lot of continual suffering and repentance to be forgiven. The truth is so far from that. In Psalm 103:8-12 we read, "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us." That is powerful. Because of God's forgiveness, we can forgive ourselves and let it go. You should definitely learn from your wrongs, but you don't have to let them weigh you down. God does not hold

them against any more!

I am sure you all know why God told us He has removed our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west. It is because the distance is infinity. Think about this for a moment. He did not remove from the north to the south because if you head north, eventually you will be going south. If you go south long enough, you will eventually be heading north. If you head out east, unless you change directions, you will never be heading west. You will go to the east infinitely – forever and ever. That is a long way! It is beyond our comprehension. If you have repented and sought forgiveness, then God has forgiven and removed your sins. You do not have to constantly dwell on the wrong you have done once you have come to Christ and asked for forgiveness.

Sometimes we are very hard on ourselves and we do not realize it. So ease up on yourself if you have not already. Enjoy the benefits of true repentance and salvation. Thank God for His grace. You are forgiven! Let go of the guilt. It is in the past. If you feel your conscience is telling you that you are suffering for the sins of the past, I feel it is evil one rather than your transgressions weighing you down.

If you are suffering now, it may not be because of your past sins. It may be because God is doing a work in your life at this very moment. It may very well be that He has tried to do this several ways and we have failed to accept the work He is doing in our lives. He does not give up on us. Maybe you have gone through or are currently going through some really tough times. It may not be because of something wrong you have done, but because of what God wants you

to do. In Romans 8:28 we read, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

In conclusion, my brothers, do not let your past regrets weigh you down. There is no reason to do that. God has removed your sins, now you need to remove them as well. Forgiveness is a gift from God. Accept it and give it away. You can be forgiven for the past, but you cannot change it. So as brother Waid, whom I love dearly, once said, "Cut it down and forget about it!" Make that advice active in dealing with your past regrets. Amen?

I love you and miss you all,
Josh

Glorifying God

To glorify God means to make His superiority manifest. God is thus glorified in numerous ways, for His superiority is manifested in many ways. He is glorified in His creation. "The Heavens declare the glory; and the firmament shows His handiwork." (Psalm 19:1.) He is glorified in the church. "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in the heavenly places might be known through the church the manifold wisdom of God..." (Eph. 3:10.) One of the most wonderful ways in which God is glorified is expressed by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. "Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16.) When men apply God's word in the right way it is soon obvious to the world that God's way is the best for man, both now and in eternity.

Bob Waldron

Those Needing Prayers

- **Spiritually Weak:** Some of our number are struggling with their faith right now and need prayers & help!
- **Steve Murrell**, preacher for Huffman, had triple bypass surgery last week. They have requested our prayers.
- **Howard Jones** has an inoperable brain disease & is slowly getting worse.
- **Pat Holley**, Bob's Mitchell's sister, is doing better and is getting stronger.
- **Dale O'Connor** as he has to fight prostate cancer.
- **Robert McNeil**, Bruce McNeil's father, is fighting cancer. Also, **Lisa's mother** has had health problems lately
- **Verona Marbut**, Dale's mother, recently had surgery on her hip.
- **Bryan Allen II** for further progress
- **Glenda Marbut** got a report that one of her cancer spots had grown some, but it has not grown much & is small.
- **Jeanie O'Brien** as she is fighting cancer along with other difficulties.
- **Ruth Bibb** (Johnnie's sister), **Barbara White** (Willette's sister), and **Sue's mother** all suffer from Alzheimer's
- **Rip & Wilma Baker**, Jenny's brother and sister-in-law, face health problems.
- **Josh Burtram**, who is away from us and Laurie at this time.
- **Shut-ins:** **Pearl Lloyd**, **Tom Farley**, **Hester Stein**, **Clara Gaston**, & **June Barlow** need prayers.