

If We Don't Forgive, We're Paralyzed

“And Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Please come near to me.’ So they came near. Then he said: ‘I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life’” (Genesis 45:4,5).

AS IMPORTANT AS IT IS TO MAKE FORWARD PROGRESS, WE OFTEN PUT OURSELVES IN A POSITION WHERE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DO SO. We paralyze ourselves by failing to forgive. Having done little to rid our hearts of resentment, we find that our minds do little but replay the past. Energy that should be spent building a better future is wasted debating our case and demanding apologies.

But consider Joseph. His brothers had sold him into slavery, an act that was not only unjust but treacherously so. He might have spent the rest of his life looking for a chance to settle the score for this grievance, but instead he was eager to extend forgiveness as soon as possible. What can we learn from him?

TO FORGIVE OTHERS, WE DON'T HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEY SEEK OUR FORGIVENESS. When Joseph forgave his brothers, they had done little to show that their sorrow was of a godly sort, and they certainly had not asked for his forgiveness. Yet Joseph saw the wisdom of extending his forgiveness unilaterally and unconditionally.

TO FORGIVE OTHERS, WE DON'T HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEY HAVE RECEIVED GOD'S FORGIVENESS. Our forgiveness and God's forgiveness are two different things. To open the path to progress in our own lives, we may need to go ahead and forgive someone as Joseph did. God's forgiveness, however, has some conditions attached to it, and two of these are godly sorrow and repentance (2 Corinthians 7:8-10). It may be a long time after we have forgiven someone before they seek God's forgiveness and receive it on His terms. During this time, we can release the part of the debt that is owed to us. We can simply turn the matter over to God, to be dealt with in His time (1 Peter 4:19). He can be counted on to do what is perfectly right.

Granted, there are times when it's wise to await the other person's repentance before God (Matthew 18:15-17; Luke 15:11-32), but even in these instances we can still let go of ill will and focus on reaching forward. When it comes to crooked things, it's a lot easier to straighten out those in the future than those in the past.

“It is the act of forgiveness that opens up the only possible way to think creatively about the future at all” (Desmond Wilson).

Gary Henry

Love Your Enemies

You have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; Matt. 5:43-44.

This is said by some to be the most challenging command given by Jesus, love your enemy. When we do as Jesus tells us, loving our enemies can and will change our lives and will make this world a better place.

Who is our enemy? Do we really have enemies? Jesus said, anyone who hates you, anyone who spitefully uses you and anyone who persecutes you are your enemies. Why should we love our enemies? We are commanded by Jesus in v. 44 to bless them and pray for them.

We must love our enemies in order to be more like God. Jesus tells his disciples in Matt 5:48 to be perfect even as your father which is in heaven is perfect. It is easy to love our family and friends, but we need to show love toward all men. We must imitate God.

If we love our enemies we will overcome evil. It is said that those who hate you won't win unless you hate them, and destroy yourself. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good, Rom. 12:21. Our goal should be to turn our enemies into our brethren. Is that not what God wants of us? Peter tells us to have compassion one for another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: not rendering evil for evil... 1 Pet. 3:8-9. Paul says, bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not, Rom. 12:14.

We are told in Proverbs 25:21, if your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. Gal. 6:10, tells us as we have opportunity to do good to all men.

The love that we have for our families, friends and brethren is very different from the love we display toward our enemies. Love is beautifully defined by Paul in 1 Cor. 13:4-8, imagine treating enemies like this! We can display our love for our enemies with active good will toward them by blessing them, doing good to them, and praying for them.

Arthur Preuss



Bonnie May had successful kidney transplant 1/13 at UAB and continues to recover . Please keep she and Ben in your prayers.

Carla Williamson, Cameron's wife and daughter-in-law of Doug & Marsha Williamson, is finally scheduled for her kidney transplant on Feb. 22, 2013. Her mother, Charlotte Robertson, is the donor. Please remember them in your daily prayers as well as the surgeons who will be involved in this serious procedure. In all things, GOD's will be done!.

Jim Keith... Recovering from surgery.

Joyce Johnston ...Has gotten much worse in her continued battle with health problems.

Laura Morgan ...Has been sick with the Flu

Leading in Worship

Sunday Morning Worship

Coordinators: Bill Knighten / Bud Porter
 Ushers: Mike Howard / Jerry Hensley
 Announcements: Neal Smith
 Scripture: Mike Stapleton
 Lead Singing: Craig Sims
 1st Prayer: Gary McDaniel
 Preaching: Marshall McDaniel
 Closing Prayer: John Williamson
 Sound System: Chris Lloyd

LORD'S Supper Preside Sam Smith
 Bread Cup

Stephen Guy Richard Howe
 Jess Hart Alan White
 Aaron Smelser Roger Cobia

Sunday Evening Worship

Announcements: Neal Smith
 Scripture: Curt Williamson
 Lead Singing: John Burch
 1st Prayer: James Powell
 Preaching: Marshall McDaniel
 Lord's Supper: Jim Keith
 Closing Prayer: John Williamson
 Sound System: Paul Puckett

LORD'S Supper Preparation

02/03 Nancy Cobia 02/10 Katherine Trefethen

Wednesday Bible Study

Ushers: Todd Thayer / Daniel Jones
 Announcements: Neal Smith
 Lead Singing: Chris Lloyd
 1st Prayer: Aaron Smelser
 Invitation: Eric Bradford
 Closing Prayer: Charles Painter
 Sound System: Mike Howard

Count Contribution

Jerry Hensley Ragan Ingram
 Doug Williamson

To our visitors:

- The people who assemble at Perry Hill Road are simply a group of Christians who belong to Christ and are devoted to serving God.
- Our aim is to glorify God by following the Bible, His inspired word, which is our only guide in worship and service.
- Our commitment is to preach Christ, who is man's only hope for eternal life, and live in such a way so that others may see Christ in us.
- We encourage an open study and discussion of the Scriptures in all our Bible classes and extend to all a sincere welcome.
- Personal studies are available upon request.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9 AM
 Worship 10 AM
 Evening 5 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7 PM

Attendance

Sunday AM 149
 Sunday Class 94
 Sunday PM 79
 Wednesday 54
 Contribution \$ 6,254.



We rejoice with Hunter White in his decision to put on Christ in Baptism.

Group 2 Meets this month.



Bible Study Eastdale Retirement Center

Thursday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Eastdale Retirement Center

Isaiah study

Friday's at 8:30 a.m. - Study Isaiah with John Humphries at church building

Feb. 03, 2013

PERRY HILL ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST
 800 PERRY HILL ROAD,
 MONTGOMERY, AL 36109
WWW.PERRYHILLCHURCH.ORG



Perry Hill Road Bulletin

How To Be Happy

We can be happy by believing in God. "Happy is the people whose God is Jehovah" (Psalm 144:15).

We can be happy by obeying god. "If ye know these things happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17). See also Deuteronomy 10:13; 1 Peter 2:7-8.

We can be happy by receiving correction from God. "Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty" (Job 5:17). See also Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:4-11.

We can be happy if we live up to all the knowledge we have. "Happy is the man that judgeth not himself in that which he approveth" (Romans 14:22) See also 1 John 3:21 and James 4:17.

We can be happy by helping those less fortunate. "He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth but he that hath pity on the poor, happy is he" (Proverbs 14:21) See also Acts 20:35 and Psalm 41:1.

We can be happy if we suffer for a righteous cause. "If ye suffer for the name of Christ, happy are ye" (1 Peter 4:14). See Matthew 5:11-12

Ultimate happiness will be receiving a crown. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day" (2 Timothy 4:7-8). See also 1 Peter 5:4.

John Clark

