

“FORGIVENESS”

What does it mean to forgive someone? God says: “*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more*” (Hebrews 8:12).

It literally means that we no longer hold that action against them. Their debt to us is forgotten. They no longer owe us anything. God forgives and forgets. He has promised us, “*Your sins and your iniquities I will remember no more.*” Unfortunately, we do not seem to have that capability. We can forgive, but the harder we try to forget something the more we remember it. We have to remember what it is that we are trying to forget. It is a vicious cycle. The key to forgetting is not trying to remember to forget; but, concentrating on other things, especially the good things. Paul said, “*whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*” (Philippians 4:5). Rather than concentrating on the things which bother you about someone, think about what you like in that person. Think about what is good in them. Concentrate on that, and the bad things will melt away into the background. If we try, we can find fault with anyone. If we concentrate on that fault, then we lose any love that we had for that individual. That is true whether the fault is large or small.

It does not mean that we forget the bad, it simply means we do not dwell on the bad. Its significance fades out of mental view. Granted, with some people this is harder to do than others. Their character may just rub us the wrong way, or their offense is so painful that it makes doing this difficult. But, these are still the people whom we can concentrate on the good things. Especially those who have sinned against us, and have truly repented, we can and must do this. It's like going to a funeral. We remember the good and never the bad! The pain that we feel at an offense is much like the pain of grieving. It does not go away immediately, it is not an event it is a process. By remembering the good things about this person, by remembering their sorrow and grief over their sin, by remembering why they are your spouse, friend or brother: what made you take them in to your bounds of affection to begin with, can minimize the pain suffered by allowing it to fade into the background. Above all else, we should remember that we have been forgiven by our heavenly Father through His Son. Our sins were just as bad in the sight of God as those of the person who has sinned against us. Yet, God sent His Son not only us, but those who sin against us. Mercy needs to be shown when it is required, and when isn't it required among any of us? Showing mercy demonstrates that love is reigning. *or if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.* (Matthew 6:14-15 KJV) DP

SERMON PREVIEW

April 3: *Drawing Power of the Cross* April 17: *Gospel Meeting, Jerry Brewer*

April 10: *The Death of Christ*

April 24: *Why Acapella Music?*

The Salisbury Beacon

Salisbury Church of Christ

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Douglas Post, Minister

410-742-4831

Office Hours: Tues–Thurs. 10AM–2PM

April 3, 2016

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Dear friends – we appreciate your willingness to worship God with us this Lord's Day! If you would like more information about the Church of Christ, or if we may assist you in other ways, please let us know. **BECOME PART OF OUR FAMILY – THE SALISBURY CHURCH OF CHRIST** ****Please fill out a Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate****

ORDER OF OUR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER

SONG # 794 NO TEARS IN HEAVEN

SONG # 726 TRUE HEARTED

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE – JOHN 12:30-33

SONG # 314 LEAD ME TO CALVARY

LORD'S SUPPER

CONTRIBUTION

SONG # 608 GOD'S FAMILY

SERMON: "THE DRAWING POWER OF THE CROSS"

SONG # 848 WHERE HE LEADS ME

CLOSING PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS, & CONCERNS

LET US PRAY FOR: Church Growth: Pray for both spiritual and numerical growth of our church. Debbie Post, Stella Reidy, Jack Callaway, Katie Gray, Flossie Hull, Barbara Kuykendall, John Tillman, Paul Marchesault, Marilyn Artis, Linda Alaban, Florence Tucker, the Jones/Dale family, the Gibson family, Larry Laten, Prince Ituen and all missionaries and military personnel serving overseas.

- **Elaine Bradley** said her son, Bruce Lauder, who is dealing with addiction issues, is also having seizures. Please keep Bruce in your prayers.
- **Bob & Diane** ask for our prayers for their neighbor's son, Jimmy McMillion, who has leukemia, which has returned for the 4th time. He is 43 years old and raising 2 teenage girls and other children. He has been fighting this for 20 years. **They also ask that we keep Jenn Striecker in our prayers as she has been battling breast cancer for some years but has now chosen to refuse any more treatment. Please keep her in your prayers.**
- **Debbie Post** is feeling better after having the effects of chemo and the flue that I gave her. She returned to CT to be with her sister and her son, Austin, who suffered many broken bones and lacerations due to a car accident last week. Please keep Austin and Debbie in your prayers.
- **Gospel Meeting (14 more days and counting). Please pray for a successful gospel meeting. INVITE, INVITE, INVITE!!!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 9 (Saturday) Work Day at the building, 9:30 AM. Remember, many hands make for light work!

April 15-16 (Friday - Saturday) Men's Days (Laurel COC, DEL)

April 17 (Sunday) Gospel Meeting with Jerry Brewer & Song Service

April 18, 19, 20 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) Gospel Meeting

April 23, 2016 (Saturday) – Ladies Day, Laurel, Maryland Church of Christ

****** The Potluck for April will be on April 17, the opening of our Gospel Meeting ******

GOSPEL MEETING APRIL 17 – 20

Sunday 10 AM & Mon. – Wed 7 PM

ETERNITY! ARE YOU READY?

“Return to Me and I will return to you”- God!

“PRINCIPLES OF PROPER WORSHIP”

There is a law of worship consisting of both negative and positive responses. Worship "*in spirit and in truth*" is a positive response. Worshiping in "*vain*" (Isa. 29:13; Matt. 15:9) is a negative response, which typically includes worshipping according to the doctrines and commandments of men, or offering up what is called "*will-worship*" ("*self-imposed*" or "*self-made worship*") - (Col.2:23).

Whatever was authorized under the Old Testament is certainly not authorized for any Christian today. All of that law was nailed to the cross (Col.2:14), including: *the sacrifice of animals on altars* (Psa. 51:19); *the burning of incense* (Ex. 30:1); *instrumental music* (Psa. 33:2; 71:22); *dancing* (Psa.149:3); *shouting* (Psa.5:11); and *clapping* (Psa.47:1).

God commanded that we are no longer to listen to Moses and Elijah (the Law and the Prophets). Instead, and in a thunderous voice, God has commanded that we listen to His Son - **HEAR HIM** (Matt.17:5)! Therefore, Old Testament worship and the commandments of men and their "Showtime" efforts, disguised as New Testament worship, are off limits to any Christian, and are not New Testament worship.

Several years ago there was a movement called the "Holy Laughter" Movement, wherein folks would go into hysterical laughing fits in public worship. They argued that they were moved to express their "*bubbling inner joy*." Where is there even an intimation of this in the New Testament, whether by instruction or by example? Since both Old Testament worship and worship that is man-made are off limits, then all that remains for us to follow are the doctrines and precepts of the New Testament (Acts 2:42; 1 John 4:6; Rev.22:18-19).

While worship is internal since the heart is involved, it is nonetheless regulated, allowed to be expressed with the accompaniment of singing (Heb.13:15; Eph.5:19); praying (1 Tim.2:1-8); Scripture reading (Col.3:16, 4:16; James 5:13, Matt.6:6); the Lord's Supper and collection (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor.16:1-2). Anything else added, which alters these commands and the worship of God's people is sinful, going beyond the doctrines and precepts written for us (1 Cor.4:6). **DP.**

WHEN THE SAINTS MEET HERE IN SALISBURY

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 AM Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study – 6pm