

Present Truth

2 Peter 1:12

Dear Readers,

October-December 2019

“Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Timothy 1:2). God’s “grace is sufficient for thee” to handle any situation you can face, for His “strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

You are Invited: We are having non-denominational Bible studies on Saturday evenings in Kansas, Oklahoma. We meet at 5:30pm for a light supper followed by music and a Bible study. We would be delighted if you can join us! Call 304-633-5411 for more information.

The Gift of Forgiveness

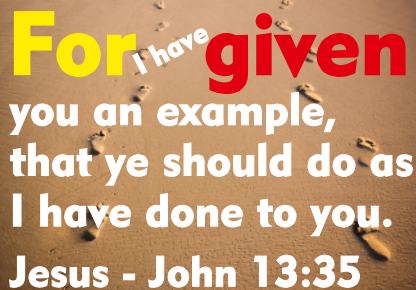
by Lynnford Beachy

God’s forgiveness is an amazing free gift that is available to all. I am so glad that God is “good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon” Him (Psalms 86:5). The Bible says, “If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared” (Psalms 130:3, 4). Praise God for His goodness and mercy!

Jesus instructed us to include in our prayers, “...forgive us our debts

[wrong-doings], as we forgive our debtors [those who have wronged us]” (Matthew 6:12). He explained, “For 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). This is serious! It is incredibly important for us to forgive others, for our own forgiveness is tied up in that. We must understand what it means to forgive others, and how that can be accomplished.

First of all, we should realize that our forgiveness of others is not what



For I have **given**
you an example,
that ye should do as
I have done to you.
Jesus - John 13:35

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initiates God's forgiveness of us. In reality, His forgiveness of us is what gives us the ability to forgive others. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32). "...even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (Colossians 3:13).

This kind of forgiveness is thorough. Jesus said that our Father will not forgive us "if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses" (Matthew 18:35). This brings forgiveness to another level. Both confession and forgiveness must be from our hearts. When my children were little, I can remember times when their mother or I would tell them, "Say you are sorry," and they would respond reluctantly, "I'm sorry." I look back on that with regret because I knew that often they were not sorry, so I was teaching them to say something they didn't mean, which is a lie. God is asking us to do more than saying a reluctant, "I'm sorry," or "I forgive you." If you're not sorry don't say that you are. If you are not going to forgive a person, don't say that you will.

True forgiveness can only come from the God who made us. He is the only one who can change our hearts. Ask Him to allow you to view and feel about people the way He does (Psalm 51:10; Ezekiel 36:26, 27; 1 John 3:14). This will start with gaining a view of yourself from God's perspective. Heartfelt forgiveness comes from a heart that

knows their own value and identity as a child of the most High God, whom He sees as a "friend" who is "highly favoured" and "beloved of God," (John 15:15; Luke 1:28; Romans 1:7). (For deeper insight on your value, request a free copy of my our tract, *Finding Your Identity*).

True forgiveness is a side effect of God's love being placed in your heart. "Great peace have they which love thy law [teachings, instruction]: and nothing shall offend them" (Psalms 119:165). "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (1 John 4:11). (For deeper insight on love, request a free copy of my latest booklet, *The Source of Love*).

Forgiveness and Prayer Life

Jesus said, "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is

in heaven forgive your trespasses" (Mark 11:25, 26). Our unwillingness to forgive others can hinder our prayer life and limit God's forgiveness of our own mistakes.

Jesus also said, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift

to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matthew 5:23, 24). We must be reconciled to our brothers and sisters before offering our gift. Our life of

True forgiveness is a side effect of God's love being placed in your heart.

service to God can be enhanced or hindered based upon our forgiveness of those who have mistreated us.

Peter wrote, “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered” (1 Peter 3:7). Husbands, the way you

treat your wife can affect your own prayer life. Give honour unto your wife as a joint heir of the kingdom of God. It is not all about you—you are in this together. Be always ready to forgive her and do all you can to encourage and strengthen your wife in her walk with the Lord. Doing this will enhance your own prayer life.

Do not let your own sins interfere with your prayers. The Bible says, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalms 66:18). “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination” (Proverbs 28:9). “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight” (Proverbs 15:8). I pray that God will be delighted by your prayers. He loves to hear from you.

Amazing Depths of Forgiveness

Jesus commanded us, “Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him” (Luke 17:3, 4). I am

amazed by how often Jesus tells us to forgive our brothers and sisters. Here He says seven times IN A DAY! In another place Peter asked Him, “Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:21, 22).

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Jesus was not expecting us to start marking down every time someone sins against us, and then refuse to forgive when they reach 491. That was a way of saying, “Don’t stop forgiving your brothers and sisters.” Thankfully, that is the way God is with us. Jesus even said that we should forgive a person seven times in a day. If we were keeping count then it would only take 70 days to use up the 490 times. Let’s not keep count! I am amazed at the depth of forgiveness He is requiring here. Suppose a friend kicks you in the shin, then apologizes, and does it again six more times in one day. We are told to forgive him each time. Jesus said that God forgives us the same way we forgive, so look how merciful God is! He will forgive us at least that often.

Jesus said, “If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him.” The first thing we are to do when a brother sins against us is to rebuke him. It is important to know what this means? Part of the definition of the original Greek word translated “rebuke” is “show honour, admonish, reprove” (*Thayer’s Greek Lexicon* – επιτιμαω – epitimao,

Strong's #2008*). This type of rebuke includes the meaning of showing honor and admonishing with the intent to help the person.

There is another type of rebuke found in 1 Timothy 5:1, 2. The Bible says, "Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity." The Greek word translated "rebuke" in this verse means to "to strike upon, beat upon, to chastise with words, to chide, upbraid, rebuke" (*Thayer's Greek Lexicon* – επιπλησσω – epiplesso, *Strong's* #1969). This type of rebuke serves to push a person down and hurt them rather than help them. This is the only time this Greek word is used in the Bible, and it is something we should never do to anyone.

All too often, when people are hurt they lash out with words, "Look how you made me feel. Look what you have done to me." In this scenario it is all about the person injured. A better response would be, "You must be hurting to have hurt me so badly. How can I help you so you can stop going around hurting people?" This response has the intention of helping the person who is hurting others. You see, hurting people, hurt people. Usually bullies have been bullied themselves by someone else.

The Bible tells us that instead of beating people up with words we

should intreat them. The Greek word translated "intreat" in this verse means to "to beg, entreat, beseech, encourage, console, comfort, instruct" (*Thayer's Greek Lexicon* – παρακαλεω – parakaleo, *Strong's* #3870). This word is translated "comfort" and is very close to the Greek word παρακλητος parakletos, *Strong's* #3875, which was translated "Comforter" four times and "Advocate" once. John wrote, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate [#3875] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). Jesus is our advocate or Comforter. Through Him, God "comforteth [#3870] us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort [#3870] them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted [#3870] of God" (2 Corinthians 1:4).

When we are injured by someone we should comfort, encourage, and instruct the one injuring us so they can be a better person. The focus is on helping the one causing the injury. The Bible says, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1). If a brother or sister is overtaken in a fault we should do all we can to help them get better. Too

* The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew. Most of the New Testament was originally written in Greek. A man by the name of James Strong took all the Greek and Hebrew words used in the Bible, put them in alphabetical order, and applied a number to each word. The small Strong's numbers used after a word represent a Greek or Hebrew word that was translated into English. Whenever you see the number 3870 in this study, it represents the same Greek word no matter what English word was chosen by the translators.

often, those who claim to follow Christ have the attitude when they hear about someone in trouble, “Too bad for them.” If they were really following Jesus, they would have a different response. When Jesus was being nailed to the cross, He prayed, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). This was a totally unselfish prayer with the focus on helping the persecutors. I pray that God would grant us to have this attitude when we are being injured, and grant us to forgive others as God forgives us.

Confession

The Bible gives us an amazing promise, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). This is fantastic in so many ways! If we confess, God will forgive, but not only that, He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness that will enable us to avoid that sin the next time.

The requirement here is for us to “confess our sins.” Sometimes it is hard to admit we have done wrong. A common human response to being caught in a fault is to blame someone else, like Adam and Eve did after their first sin (Genesis 3:11-13). If you are wrong, admit it, confess your sins. This is the first step to forgiveness.

After David committed a terrible sin, he said, “For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me” (Psalms 51:3). There is no shame in admitting when you have failed—the shame would be to try to

cover it or blame someone else. “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13). Let us say with David, “For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin” (Psalms 38:18).

Confessing your sins is more than saying, “I am sorry.” We use that phrase for things like expressing sympathy for someone, “I am sorry for your loss.” Saying “I am sorry,” does not necessarily acknowledge wrongdoing. If you are confessing a wrong you did to someone you should be more clear, such as, “I apologize for what I have done, please forgive me.”

**Make sure
your side is
always open to
forgiveness.**

We should forgive everyone who asks us. Jesus said we are to plead with those who sin against us, and “if he repent, forgive him” (Luke 17:3). Forgiveness comes after a person repents. That does not mean we should hold grudges, for on our side we should be eager to forgive. It is kind of like the double doors that separate some hotel rooms. You can leave your side open, but until the other person opens their door you cannot have full interaction. Make sure your side is always open to forgiveness. That is the way God is, for the Bible says, God is “...good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon” Him (Psalms 86:5).

Do not Hold Grudges

There are a lot of disagreements and holding grudges that are based

upon misunderstandings. Many people are too proud to admit they did anything wrong, or if they will admit it, they seem to wait until they are thoroughly convinced they were in the wrong. It is a good practice that if you know you are at odds with someone, apologize for everything you can possibly apologize for. This can open doors that will never open while both parties wait for an apology. "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matthew 5:23, 24). If you remember someone has a problem with you, it is your responsibility to go to that person to seek reconciliation. Don't wait for an apology. Be the change! Free up everything that could prevent you from having open communion with your Father in heaven.

God wants us to live forever. He says, "As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11). When we sin, God doesn't get mad at us, instead He wants to help us see our condition and turn to Him so we can live. Repentance is a turning away from self and sin, toward God.

A beautiful thing about repentance is that God will never mention our

sins to us again. "If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live" (Ezekiel 33:15, 16). You see, we shall all give account for our actions in the judgment (Matthew 12:36; Romans 14:12; 1 Peter 4:5), but this account can be given ahead of time if we confess our sins. The Bible

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says, "Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after" (1 Timothy 5:24). Our sins can go ahead of time to the judgment so that when our names come up in the judgment our record

is clean (1 Peter 4:17; Daniel 7:10; Revelation 4-6; Romans 14:10). We will never have to answer for those sins that have been forgiven and removed from our record.

The Bible says, "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust" (Psalms 103:11-14). God, the Father, "hath committed all judgment unto the Son... because he is the Son of man" (John 5:22, 27). Jesus knows very well what we are going through, for He "was in all points



A circular maze with a complex, winding path. In the center of the maze, the words "Faith", "Hope", and "Love" are stacked vertically in a blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom left of the maze, the words "Start Here" are written in the same blue font. The maze is composed of thick black lines forming a circular border and intricate internal paths. In the top left corner, a small portion of a blue book cover is visible, showing the text "MAT 9:12." in white. In the top right corner, the text "to guide your life." is written in a blue, sans-serif font.

Present Truth - Kids' Korner

Bible Word Search

Find the underlined words...

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
...And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

(Ephesians 4:30-32)

T T K P S P I R I T B M A X K B H D S P
K E T A K A N O T H E R U R F M N N A R
C N G R I E V E I A G Z N R E A A L K M
N D R Z H O L Y S X O T T D D I N U P K
F E Q W S V B S L W D H O L S A R I K M
J R L V H K K M A N V T A E U Z Y I I M
Y H B K S E E X E K S N H T T I S K N B
O E L M K E R V X I E P E S H J N E D E
S A X O H R I E R S E J Q B V P C F H G
E R D T U G A H B M M K N B W A L T E E
A T C Y R S C I H Y N P X Y I H O J D D
L E M O I K T M R E D E M P T I O N F T
E D F U N Z S E V N T A N F U S J W K S
D F O R D E A E P C J X Q S A U F J F Z
V K T F O R G I V I N G V C X I N O T V

**DANCE LIKE
NO ONE'S WATCHING
SING LIKE NO ONE'S LISTENING
LOVE LIKE
YOU'LL NEVER BE HURT
PLAY LIKE THERE'S
NO WINNERS
BEHAVE LIKE MOM'S WATCHING
GIVE LIKE YOU HAVE PLENTY
AND SMILE**



This is how you write forgiveness in Chinese. Do you see the smiley face?

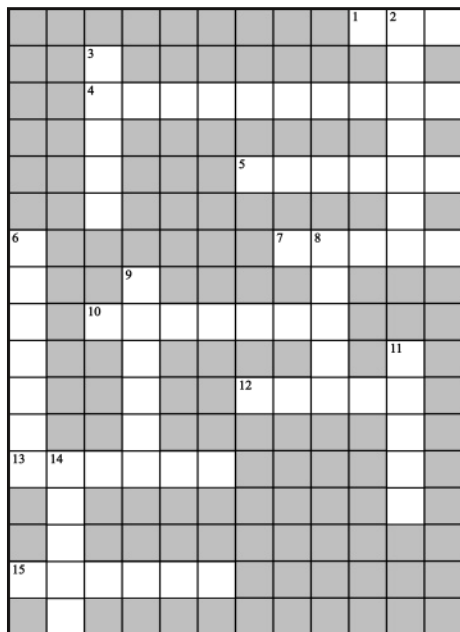


Present Truth - Kids' Korner

Bible Study Crossword - Personality of God - Part 13

(The King James Version is required.)

- "And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no ____ how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say." Luke 12:11—**10 Across**
- "For the Holy ____ shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say." Luke 12:12—**7 Across**
- "But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall ____; for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak." Matthew 10:19—**3 Down**
- "For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your ____ which speaketh in you." Matthew 10:20—**5 Across**
- "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which ____ from the Father, he shall testify of me." John 15:26—**4 Across**
- "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly ____ Jesus Christ our Saviour;" Titus 3:5-6—**6 Down**
- "Grace be to you and ____ from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ," Galatians 1:3—**11 Down**
- "And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not ____, but I and the Father that sent me." John 8:16—**14 Down**
- "It is also written in your law, that the testimony of ____ men is true." John 8:17—**1 Across**
- "I am one that bear ____ of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth ____ of me." John 8:18 (1 word)—**2 Down**
- "He that ____ me ____ my Father also." John 15:23 (1 word)—**13 Across**



- "If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and ____ both me and my Father." John 15:24—**8 Down**
- "I give thee ____ in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession." 1 Timothy 6:13—**9 Down**
- "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall ____ the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom." 2 Timothy 4:1—**12 Across**
- "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect ____, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality." 1 Timothy 5:21—**15 Across**

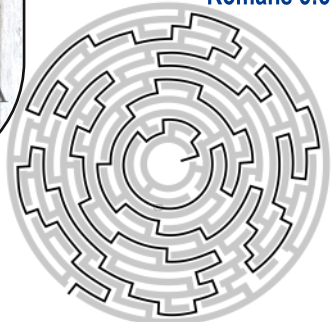
Note: The third highest rank in heaven is held by angels, not a third divine being.

The Prodigal Son

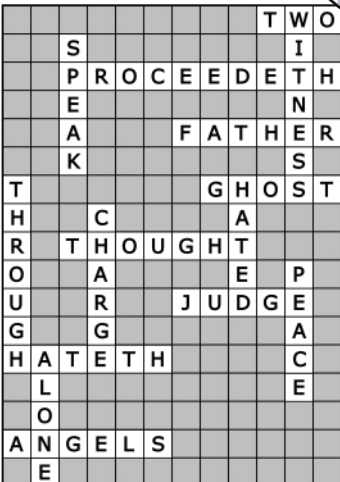
Freely forgiven!



**“And hope maketh not
ashamed; because the love of
God is shed abroad in our
hearts by the Holy Ghost
which is given unto us.”
Romans 5:5**



Answers



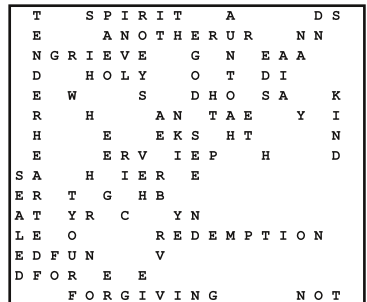
Bonus

How many times can you find the word “mercy” in the first article?

*Answer for the
Last*

Issue:

Selfishness 10



tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).

“He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:19). He casts our sins into the depths of the sea and puts up a no fishing sign. They have gone beforehand to judgment so we will not have to meet them again (Ezekiel 33:16). God’s forgiveness is amazing!

Do Not Tell Others!

Jesus said, “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican” (Matthew 18:15-17).

This instruction is so vital in all of our relationships. The first thing Jesus tells us to do when we are wronged is “tell him his fault between thee and him alone.” All too often, instead of following this instruction, people tell many others about it first. This only serves to make the problem worse. Jesus instructed us how we can keep problems as small as possible. The first step is to go to that person directly alone. Do not tell anyone else about it! Ideally, this step is where all problems should be dealt with. If you go and tell someone else about it first, then you have poisoned their mind

against your brother or sister. It is likely that you are mistaken about the person’s intentions anyway, so you are spreading an imbalanced perspective of someone, and it is sure to bear bad fruit. STOP! Go talk to the person directly first. Most disagreements stem from a misunderstanding about the other person.

The Bible says, “Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another: Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away” (Proverbs 25:9, 10). After you talk with your brother or sister about the injury they caused, if they hear you, that is the end of it. Don’t repeat that to other people, nor bring it up to that person again. It is over! Telling secrets about someone to other people is a terrible thing to do, and it is one of the seven things God hates (Proverbs 6:16-19).

Here are a few things the Bible says about gossipers. “A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter” (Proverbs 11:13). “Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people” (Leviticus 19:16). “The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly” (Proverbs 18:8). “Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth” (Proverbs 26:20).

I am so glad that God does not broadcast to everyone all of the misdeeds that we have done. If you are about to go tell someone about the mistakes of others, STOP! Go talk to that person directly. It is very likely you misunderstand the circumstances

anyway, so you would only be sowing bad seeds.

When to Involve Others

There is a time to involve others in conflict, but that is only after step one has been done. After you have personally pleaded with the individual who was in the wrong, and they defiantly refuse to listen to counsel. Only then should you bring with you one or two others to plead with them again. If this doesn't work, then you should inform the church about it, and the only reason for this is to help to plead with the individual. Every step is only to help the person who is in the wrong. At every step, your goal must be to attempt to win them back. I have heard it said, "If you are not willing to die for the individual you are approaching about a problem, then keep your mouth shut." I think that is very good advice.

Jesus said, "And why beholdest thou the mote [speck or twig] that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matthew 7:3-5). If our goal in pointing out a fault in a brother is not to help them, then we should not get involved. We need to make sure our motives are correct first, take the beam out of our own eye, before we go to someone

with any type of correction. Otherwise, we cannot see clearly, and we will make a mess of things. I surely do not want an eye doctor who is wearing a blindfold to come to me to try to correct my vision.

Every step is only to help the person who is in the wrong.

Even after all the steps in Matthew 18 are taken, you should still try to win the person back. Jesus said, at the last stage they should be to you "as an heathen man and a publican." This doesn't mean we reject them. Jesus was "a friend of publicans and sinners!" (Luke 7:34). We should be their friends too.

Hungering and Thirsting

Jesus said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). That is a great promise, we "shall be filled" with "righteousness." Why? ...because we "hunger and thirst" after it. We want it so badly we will give everything to acquire it.

Being forgiven is more than just having a record of our sins wiped clean. That is only part of it! The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). True repentance includes a desire to be filled with righteousness and cleansed from our wickedness. David wrote, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalms 139:23, 24). He also wrote, "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret

faults” (Psalms 19:12). Elihu said, “That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more” (Job 34:32).

David understood that when he fell into sin, he needed more than just the record of his sins removed. He said, “Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalms 51:9, 10). Repentance includes confessing our sins, and asking God to create in us a clean heart to keep us from making the same mistakes again. I pray that God will grant us to hunger and thirst after righteousness. This will ensure that we will be filled so we can walk in a new life (Romans 6:4).

Even though we have been given a clean heart, sometimes we may fall (1 John 2:1). Don’t be discouraged! In fact, the Bible says, “For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief” (Proverbs 24:16). Based upon this verse a just man falls more often than a wicked person. This is because a just man rises up again, while a wicked person stays down. Rising up each time includes confession and forgiveness. Thankfully, God will forgive us at least seven times in a day.

Conclusion

I am very glad that God forgives us so thoroughly that we will never have to face those sins again (Ezekiel 33:16). He so fervently wants to live with us forever that He has given everything He has to help us to do that (Romans 8:32). Jesus said, “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good

pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). Jesus said, “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2, 3).

God wants to see you thrive and succeed. For this to happen you must “cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days” (Deuteronomy 30:20). “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:11, 12).

Friends, God loves you much more than you can imagine (Ephesians 3:14-21). He will relentlessly pursue you in hopes you will accept His free gift of salvation (Ezekiel 33:11; Jeremiah 31:3). He reached me at the perfect time. He promised, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5).

God says to you, “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands” (Isaiah 49:15).

Give your life to Him, and it will be the best decision of your life. “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19). Don’t wait any longer. “...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2).



How Great is His Mercy!

by Laura Beachy

Jesus, your mercy washes over me,
Like a cascading waterfall,
Rushing through my veins,
Purifying me,
Like a refiner's fire,
Making a new creation in me.

Jesus, your mercy washes over me,
Jesus, because of you I've been
made clean,
Jesus, the debt has been paid for me,
Jesus, when you took my sin upon
that tree,
Jesus, you put a new heart in me,
Jesus, oh, thank you for saving me.

(These words are the lyrics of a song written by my wife,
Laura Beachy. I pray you will be blessed by it. *Editor*)



Letters from our Readers



"I enjoyed reading of your missionary travels in the July-September *Present Truth*. The 'Columbia Trip Report' was special. 'Givers and Takers' gives me much to ponder, and I enjoyed Sister Laura's contribution, 'His Love.' God be with you." *Montana*

"My cousin forwarded your booklet *The Source of Love*. I read it through and liked it a lot. I want to let you know that I am praying for you and your ministry. Our sin-darkened world is so in need of a correct picture of our loving heavenly Father and His Son. God has gifted and anointed you to speak about our loving heavenly Father. Keep on keeping on. May your message reach many and may you be blessed today." *Email*

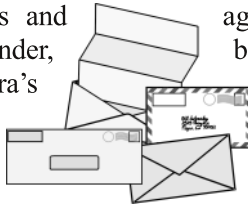
"Lynnford, I don't believe I have ever read the little book, *Christ in You* before. That is a great little book to

hand out and I was wondering if you could send me at least a dozen more to hand out. It was great to see you again and your wife, it has been quite a while since we have met." *Florida*

"Thank you Brother Lynnford. The materials you sent have been very helpful. God bless you Brother. I will let you know when I need more." *Texas*

"Please accept these funds as tithe. May God bless in your work." *Canada*

"Dear *Present Truth*, Thank you for the July-Sept newsletter. The timing of the article 'Givers and Takers' was from the Father for my family. He knows what we need to encourage us and His timing is perfect. Please send me a couple copies of *Rescued from Addiction* as you mentioned in the article. I'm enclosing a list of addresses and pray you can send them the July-Sept. issue.



Present Truth

Some of these are my children and I pray they would be blessed by its contents. Keep pressing forward towards the mark of Jesus Christ our Creator, Saviour, and soon to be Redeemer! May we all cling to His promises as we await for that better country – Heaven! To God be the glory through His Son Jesus Christ.”

Montana

“Even though I am in here during the holiday, God has found a way to bless me. I am so thankful I have such a loving God. I have been reading the Bible daily and God has done wonders with my new heart. ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me’ (Philippians 4:13). I have had time to think about what you said about “the army of God.” I think that is the best army I could ever join. I would very much like to join. The only people I know of in that army who have truly given their life to serve God is you. I wish I had more friends through Christ, but my whole life I have surrounded myself with sinners. I am open to the idea of taking my faith and service of God to the next level but I feel I just don’t have the resources. Keep me in your prayers.”

Juvenile Prisoner in Arkansas

“Hello, and greetings to you. I am dropping a quick note off to you just to let you know that I had been moved from where I was at before when I received your *Present Truth* Newsletter

like clock work. Since this time I did send a small donation along with my new address. I sincerely wish that I could send more to you, as I have kept every copy I have ever received from you, and sent them home. Thanks again and God bless all of you.”

Michigan

“I hope you are home again safely. I would like 20 of your new *Source of Love* booklets, and 20 Holy Spirit ones. We are doing ok here in Indiana. I am praying for you and Jim and your family. May the Lord bless you real good just now.”

Indiana

“Dear Brother Lynnford, I am sending you fifty dollars and pray you can send me as many of the following books as this will cover. *Understanding the Personality of God, Christ in You, God’s Love on Trial, Answering Objections*. Thank you!”

Alabama

“How great it is to know the love of God. I have almost completed the book of John. I have learned so much just from one book. I want to know God and serve Him more than ever. I still have trouble sometimes with my thoughts and plans, but He has His ways of reminding me what is important. I try to teach these guys about what I learned, but I guess it is hard to trust a guy that you’re in jail with. Thank you Mr. Beachy for helping God teach me.”

Juvenile Prisoner in Arkansas

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“For God so loved the world, that he
gave his only begotten Son, that
whosoever believeth in him should not
perish, but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

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“And this is life eternal, that they might
know thee the only true God, and Jesus
Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

John 17:3