

Melbourne

Church of Christ

Where You Are Part of God's Family

March 6, 2011

The Problem of Forgiveness

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:13-15)

Sin and the power of sin are often misunderstood. The word "sin" is used more in jest than it is in seriousness. But to truly understand forgiveness, you must understand sin. In the Bible, God sets a standard of behavior, his moral law. He gave this law, in writing, to the Jews but through Paul, makes it clear that this law has been written on the hearts of those who may not have or have read God's written law (Romans 2:15). Violating this law or failing to live up to this law is described by several terms in the Bible: sin, unrighteousness, iniquity, lawlessness and transgression.

The truth about sin revealed in the Bible is that every single person has violated God's moral law (Romans 3:23). To violate God's law or to fail to live up to God's moral standard, is to sin against God. Even though my sin might be against someone personally, like sleeping with someone else's spouse or stealing, sin is really against God. When David sinned with Bathsheba, in repentance he says to God, "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight" (Psalm 51:4).

To sin against the one who created you carries severe consequences, not only for the present, but also for the future. "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Worst of all, the consequence of sinning against God brings God's wrath, "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness" (Romans 1:18).

The severity of our sin, the seriousness of the consequences of our sin, and the inevitability of God's wrath being poured out on all sin reveal how difficult the problem of forgiveness is. That is, the forgiveness of God for the sins of all the world's people comes with a great price tag. The price is so high that no amount of money or no sacrifice can solve this problem of forgiveness. Our sin and God's wrath stand in the way of our forgiveness. But the satisfaction for our sin is the subject of next week's article.

—Steve Puckett



*"Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise"
(Psalm 84:4, NRSV).*

May all who are present here be joyful before the Lord. Welcome!



Melbourne Church Family Calendar/Area Events

(See the bulletin board, bulletin insert, or call the church office for more information)

- 3/6: **Blood Drive** in our parking lot, 8:30 a.m. - approx. 1:00 p.m.
3/6: **Worship at Indian River**, 2 p.m. with Julio Roman and Melbourne Family Singers
3/8: **ScreamFree Parenting Class** begins for approx. 6 weeks, 6 p.m. at the church building
3/13: **Pancake Breakfast TORCH Fundraiser**, beginning 8:30 a.m.
3/13: **Special Contribution Sunday**
3/13: **Worship at Consulate**, 2 p.m. with David Bradley and Melbourne Family Singers
3/25: **Free Family Movie Night**, at the church building at 6 p.m. Mission fundraiser concessions will be sold.



Daylight Savings Time begins next Sun.,
March 13. Don't forget to set your
clocks forward 1 hour on Sat. night!



Ramblings From the Tilted Halo Society

A Place for Us

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. John 14:2-3 (NIV)

I have visited friends and family and spent the night or several nights in their homes. They have always been wonderful hosts and have told me they have prepared a place for me and they have also told me to make myself at home. They enjoy my company and I theirs, they have prepared a place in their homes and at times even picked me up at the airport to get me there. My hosts have a nice clean room waiting for me to sleep and they make sure I have everything I need. I have also prepared a place for friends and family at my home. I try to make them as comfortable as possible; even finding out their favorite foods, snacks and soft drinks to make sure it is available for them. I do this because I love them and want their visit to be as pleasant as possible. I don't usually invite just anyone to my home; it is usually someone I love a great deal.

Jesus answers the question, how much do I love you by his atoning death on the cross. After he paid my sin debt through his death, he was resurrected and beat death. Jesus gave me eternal assurance of a life with him and our Father in heaven. Imagine our belief in Jesus' sacrificial death as an act of atonement for us. Jesus paid our sin debt and that is the answer to the question, does God really love me.

Okay he gave his life and now he says there are many rooms in his father's house and he is going ahead to pre-

pare a place for us. Well not only is he preparing a place for us, he said he will come back for us. On top of all that, the King of Kings, the Messiah, our Savior, the Son of God and our greatest friend says he is coming back to take us with him so we can be where he is. Only those who believe get to go. The future looks good Jesus himself is preparing for our arrival and is coming to get us. This will not be for a short visit; he is preparing our eternal home in heaven, in his Father's house. Jesus has done it all for us why wouldn't I do what he asks of me? I am waiting for the day Jesus says welcome, make yourself at home because this is now your home and wait till you see the room I prepared for you. Jesus wants to spend eternity with us so much. He has a place for us.

God Bless
Ken Jones
THS



THE BIG RED BUS IS HERE!

....There is a blood drive ongoing in our parking lot today until approx. 1:00 p.m. Your donation can save the lives of three people! (teens as young as 16 are eligible to donate with parent's written consent)

Great Incentives for donors Include:

- + Free cup of coffee from Dunkin' Donuts
- + Free 3-scoop sundae from Friendly's
- + Free hotdog from Mustard's Last Stand
- + And more!

Family News and Notes



Shepherd's Corner

Ministries and Budgets

As you know, the elders have asked us all to consider how we can make up our budget shortfall by a special contribution on March 13th. I know there are many reasons why we are behind on our budget contributions, including members being un-employed for extended lengths of time, some being under-employed, some members being on fixed incomes with rising costs, etc. We also have over-spent in some areas, especially in ministries that help those who have been unemployed for a while.

While there are many reasons that we are behind in contributions, the long-term effect is an impact on ministries, on our ability to minister to those around us. So let me use this space to make sure we are all aware of some of our less visible ministries, and whom they serve.

Since my personal favorite is the children's ministry, I will start with it. On any given Sunday, we have from 30 to 40 children from newborn through 6th grade attending age-appropriate classes, taught by a large group of volunteers – mostly ladies, although there are a few men who are brave enough to participate! Classes start with several minutes of social time, where the teachers and kids get to play together before the classes start. This allows the teachers to build a deeper relationship with the children, beyond that of just a teacher and student. The kids then attend a very interactive, hands-on learning style of class, where they are taught Biblical truths through activities, Bible study, and group interactions. Kind of like an adult class but with lots more motion and noise!

Following the class, most attend Children's Worship, which is similar in format to our worship service in the auditorium, but with some key differences. For example, the children are encouraged to ask questions and make comments during the singing, the Lord's supper, and the lesson. The children sing some of the same songs that are sung in the auditorium, but also have many unique songs that are designed to be more age-appropriate; i.e. more simple structures and easier words and tunes. Most come with hand motions as well! We also have a yearly Vacation Bible School that ministers to around 100 kids for a week. Space does not permit me to write about the Wednesday night activities.

Our budget for the children's ministry is about \$27,000. We invest about 3500 volunteer and 1000 paid staff hours to serve these children for a year.

Next week, I plan to cover 2 more ministries.

Don Nickens

Card Ministry Update During February, the following cards were sent in the name of the Melbourne church family: 34 Birthday, 38 Visitor, 24 Get Well, and 3 Anniversary. Remember to stop by the card station in the foyer to sign as many cards as you'd like. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Children's Ministry Announcements

3/6 Sun. AM - Nursery is provided during adult worship for infants and toddlers up to age 3. Pre-school Children's Worship is available for pre-school children age 3-5. Elementary children (K-5th) go to the CW room right after class. Our virtue this month is **Courage**.

* Please pick up your children promptly after services.

3/9 Wed. 7 PM - All children go to the Children's Worship Room. We are learning about **Jonah** this month.

2/27/2011

CW Contribution \$12.00
(All CW contributions go to Called & Compelled Honduras Missions)

Attendance:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday School | 27 |
| Preschool Children's Worship | 8 |
| Elementary Children's Worship | na (in auditorium) |
| Nursery | 5 |

Pre-School Worship & Nursery Assignments

Mar. 6, 2011

Pre-Sch. Worship: Mary Tomlinson/Rita Hewett/Alex Heuser

Nursery: Melissa Webber/Angie Brown/Bonnie Seamon

Mar. 13, 2011

Pre-Sch. Worship: Bonita Potts/Juliette Adams/Callie Heuser

Nursery: Sophye Wimpee/Cheri Tate



Food Pantry Report

This past week, 112 families/346 individuals were served with food through our food pantry!

Donations of non-perishable items or money to purchase them are always welcome and appreciated! Cereal continues to be a staple need. Thank you to Harold McGee and our dedicated staff of volunteers, and to all who continue to support our pantry in any way!

The Melbourne Church of Christ Food Pantry is a non-discriminatory facility of The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Melbourne Church of Christ
810 Hollywood Blvd.
West Melbourne, FL 32904
(321) 723-8233
www.melbournechurchofchrist.org
office@melbournechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes All Ages 9:30 a.m.
 AM Worship (Eng/Sp.) 10:30 a.m.
 PM Worship 6:00 p.m.
 (Alternative Care Group Meetings various times - contact Ken Jones)
 Pancake Breakfast 2nd Sun., 8:30 a.m.
 All-church fellowships on 4th Sun., 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Ladies' Bible Class Tues. 10:30 a.m.
 (lunch on 1st Tues. of month)
 Men's Prayer Meeting 1st Tues. 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study All Ages 7:00 p.m.

Serving as Elders:

**Gary Canup, Tom Fennell, Don Hall,
 Mike Lovelace, Don Nickens,
 Calvin Potts, and Pat Seamon.**

Serving On Staff:

Tom Fennell, Pastoral Care
Linda Hounschell, Financial Secretary
Ken Jones, Involve. Minister
Debby Nickens, Children's Minister
Walter Pierce, Youth Minister
Steve Puckett, Senior Minister
Cheri Tate, Secretary

Family Record 2/27/11

Attendance

| | |
|--|------------|
| 6th grade-Adult Bible Classes: | 135 |
| Children's Bible Classes: | 27 |
| Total Bible Class | 162 |
| Auditorium Worship: | 276 |
| Spanish Worship: | na |
| Children's Worship/Nursery (4th Sun.) | 13 |
| Total Worship Count: | 289 |

Budget Items

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly Budget 7/1/10-6/30/11 | \$ 9,799 |
| Contribution to Budget: | \$ 9,164 |
| Contribution to Special Items: | \$ 1,447 |
| YTD Budget | \$(38,937) |

March 6, 2011
Order of Worship

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Worship in Song Leader | Walter Pierce |
| <i>We Have Come into His House</i> | 296 |
| Welcome and Announcements | Pat Seamon |
| <i>In Christ Alone</i> | <i>Words on Slides</i> |
| <i>It's Me</i> | 960 |
| Opening Prayer | Cletis Diehl |
| <i>How Deep the Father's Love</i> | <i>Words on Slides</i> |
| Communion/Offering | Bob Eckelberry |
| <i>Victory in Jesus</i> | 470 |
| <i>You Are My King (Amazing Love)</i> | <i>Words on Slides</i> |
| Scripture Reading <i>Rom. 3:23, Rom. 6:23, 1 John 3:4</i> | Jonathon Finlayson |
| Sermon Message "The Problem of Forgiveness" | Steve Puckett |
| <i>Glory to His Name</i> | 475 |
| Shepherd's Prayer | Calvin Potts |
| <i>Days of Elijah</i> | <i>Words on Screen</i> |

- + A/V Tech: Christa Pierce
- + AM Nursing Home Service, 9:30 a.m.: Tyrone Carter
- + Worship at Indian River, 2 p.m.: Julio Roman and Melbourne Singers

Worship Coordinators

Ken Jones/Mel Green/Cletis Diehl

Servers: Desmond Hewett (RS)
 (Mar.) John Gibson (RM)
 Ron Whelpley (C)
 Hedison Mui (LM)
 Jessie Hewett (LS)

Ushers: Manny Thomas (RS)
 (Mar.) Dave Stover (RM)
 Paul Zima (C)
 Rob Ellison (LM)
 Taylor Neidlinger (LS)

Shepherd's Prayer (Mar.): Calvin Potts

Serving Next Sunday, March 13

Song Leader: Tyrone Carter
 Opening Prayer: Harry Gayle
 Announcements: Pat Seamon
 Presiding: Calvin Potts
 Reading: Larry Frazier
 Message: Steve Puckett

A/V Tech: Ray Green

Shepherd's Prayer: Calvin Potts

- + Nursing Home Service 9:30 a.m.: David Bradley
- + Worship at Indian River, 2 p.m.: David Bradley and Melbourne Singers