

Third, notice some differences between God's forgiveness and man's. God alone can forgive sins (Luke 5: 21). Man can only forgive a wrong done to him. The guilt, the consequences and the punishment are all forgiven when God forgives, and the nature of the forgiven one is changed. This is not so in man's forgiveness. God's forgiving is judicial. Man's is personal. It would help us understand that distinction if we could think of a judge on the bench who had the responsibility of passing sentence on a man who had killed his good friend, even if it were his own son who is being sentenced. His son repents in bitter tears and asks his father to forgive him. He does so. But then he sentences the son to die in the electric chair! He cannot properly pardon him judicially, though he can personally, for justice demands that sin be punished. This is true whether we think of justice in the courts of earth or of heaven.

Thank God for the marvel of God's gracious plan of redemption. "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Through Jesus, the justice of the law can be fulfilled and the penalty paid, while the perpetrator of the crime can go free! Praise God! It cannot be done properly under man's system of government.

My final proof that man CAN forgive a person who does not repent (which has nothing to do with whether he SHOULD always do so) is found in Luke 17:4, "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." The truth of the matter is, you cannot tell whether he actually repents or not at that point! But God COMMANDS you to forgive him if he SAYS, "I repent." God does not forgive him unless he actually repents, but you can, and in fact, must, if he INDICATES that he repents. This simply means that you "give up any claim to requital for wrong done" and has nothing to do with getting rid of the man's guilt or changing his nature.

The difference between my conclusion and that of my more astute brethren may be largely one of semantics, having to do with the way one defines "forgiveness," but it is my judgment that part of the difference is in what I call "judicial" and "personal" forgiveness -- a distinction that I have not heard them make.

I think it would actually be WRONG, in some cases, for us to forgive a person who did not give evidence of repentance, for it would imply that he did not need to, or that sin was not too important. I refuse to baptize a person, for example, who is openly living in adultery. But I am confident that I have baptized some who had committed adultery, but had not repented. If I did, God did not forgive them, although as far as I was aware or concerned, they were forgiven!

Even if you do not agree with my conclusions, this may cause you to re-examine your own attitude. Do not try to play God if a person does you wrong. Simply do what God said do. If he sins against you seven times in a day and seven times turns and says, "I repent," you must forgive him if you follow God's word. I personally have trouble with that. After the second time, I have a tendency to start keeping count, and especially after 490 (Mt. 18:22), I might quit! How about you? Of course I am not suggesting that Jesus meant that we should keep a record and be able to tell when the 490th time came. But I am to forgive if he asks for forgiveness and says he has repented.

T. PIERCE BROWN <http://www.oldpaths.com/>

August 19, 2018

Remember the shut-ins with a visit, call, or card.

Residential

Jenafee Brunner, 1502 W Pyburn
Mary Sue Greer, 2102 Lee St

Randolph County Nursing Home

Elsie Prewitt 106
Earl Hagar, 109
Jennifer Burr, 204
Gwen Futrell, 419
Charlcie Hufstedler, 223
Anna Lemmons, 332
Bonnie Kellett, 335

BULLETIN INFO:

Please give "News and Events" to **Tom and Carolyn Towell**. You can call 892-5087, 870-930-7344 or 870-930-7355 and leave a message. Email address is tctowell@centurytel.net

ITEMS for August CHILDREN'S HOME

Brown Sugar/Powdered Sugar
UKRAINE MISSION
Crayons/Pens/Pencil

Our speaker today is Jody McFadden from Paragould.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Alta Crawford is still not feeling well. They are trying to get her medicine regulated.

Barbara Dunn will see a surgeon September 10 in Little Rock.

Don McGuirt is doing well after his screening procedure last week.

Wanda Hogue rescheduled her knee surgery till August 30 due to the death of her close friend, Larry Barnett.

Plans are to deliver the 'Mats for Haiti' to Searcy next Thursday, August 23. If anyone would like to make the trip, let Carolyn Towell know. Also, we can use some help in getting the mats loaded at 9:00am from the basement.

There will be a work period to sort, stack, cut, etc the plastic bags for Mats for Haiti September 30 at 10:00. Plans are to eat at Wendy's after working.

The Ladies Bible class will resume September 5, in the basement at 10:00am.

Those requesting prayer

Jenafee Brunner, Grant Killion, Carol Killion, G W Allison, Fran Allison, Bonnie Kellett, Elsie Prewitt, Earl Hagar, Frances Hagar, Anna Lemmons, Vicky Smith, Charlcie Hufstedler, Wanda Purdy, Ray Stowers, Leroy Crutcher, Martha Spikes Rampey, Cody Shaw,

Plan of Salvation

Hear – Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”.

Believe – John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins”.

Repent – Luke 13:3 “I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”.

Confess – Romans 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”.

Be Baptized – I Peter 3:21 “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”.

Local Missions

KPOC 104.1 FM–RADIO PROGRAMS

Sunday morning @ 8:00 AM

Mon. – Fri. @ 6:15, 11:55, & 3:45

IN SEARCH OF THE LORD’S WAY

Sunday-7:30 AM on Cable 13 (Memphis)

Sunday-7:30 AM on Cable 4 (Little Rock)

Sunday-7:30 AM on Direct Channel 367

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Sunday-9:00 AM on Cable 9 (KAIT 8)

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Sunday-6:30 AM on Dish Channel 267

World Missions

Ted Knight, Romania

John Reese, World Bible School, Africa

Eddie Cloer, Truth for Today

Ted Lingren, Cambodia

Website—

www.pyburnstreetchurchofchrist.com

August 19, 2018

Announcements: David Futrell

Song Leader: Tom Towell

Speaker: Jody McFadden

AM Class: “The road less traveled”

AM Sermon: “Heaven will surely be worth it all”

Scripture: Matthew 7:13-14

PM Sermon: Heaven or Hell

Presiding at Table

Grant Killion

East

David Lemmons

Don McGuirt

Sunday Evening: Mike Dunn

West

Byron Futrell

Don Gillean

Sunday Morning Worship

First Prayer: Mike Dunn

Closing Prayer: Joey Bryant

Read Scripture: Wayne Smith

Sunday Evening Worship

First Prayer: Mike Dunn

Closing Prayer: Arkie Pierce

Wednesday Night (Aug 22)

First Prayer: Grant Killion

Closing Prayer: Jay Don Wilson

Invitation: Wayne Smith

Preparation of Communion for August

Tom and Carolyn Towell

Sunday Services

Bible Study 9:00 AM

Worship 9:50 AM

Evening Service 6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Study
7:00 PM

Ladies Bible Class will begin
September 5.

Elders

Grant Killion 892-4159

Tom Towell 892-5087

WELCOME VISITORS!!

We appreciate our visitors and encourage you to fill out a “Visitor’s Card” located on the back of the pew in front of you.

August Birthdays

Jeremy Burgess--1

Georgia Pierce--10

Cindy Futrell--19

Madison Byrd--21

Margaret McCarroll--23

Marie Murphy--23

Anna Johnson--25

In the Footsteps of Jesus

Pyburn Street church of Christ

305 Pyburn Street, P.O. Box 187, Pocahontas, AR 72455

870-892-5596

August 19, 2018

FORGIVENESS WITHOUT REPENTANCE?

Many of my brethren whom I respect most highly as scholarly, learned men, and with whom I stand on most things I hear them express (not because I follow them, or they follow me, but because we both have arrived at the same conclusion by careful analysis of God's Word) take the position that one cannot forgive a brother if he does not repent. Some of the reasons given for that conclusion are: "Even God cannot forgive one who does not repent," and "Forgiveness must be accepted before it is actually forgiveness."

I believe that conclusion needs to be restated and clarified for some of the following reasons: 1. Man can do some things God cannot. 2. Both above statements relate to God's forgiveness, not man's. 3. God's forgiveness is different than man's forgiveness.

Let us examine each of those above statements. It is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:7) or do anything else unjust or improper. So, while we might say that it is IMPROPER for man to forgive without penitence on the part of the guilty party, the impossibility of God doing it has nothing to do with the proof.

Second, God's forgiveness must be accepted before the man is forgiven of his sins, but that is not because of the basic meaning of the term "forgiveness," but because of the nature of God's forgiveness. The basic meaning of the term, forgiveness, is "to give up any claim for requital for wrong done." I think this is usually spoken of as "having a forgiving attitude," rather than "forgiving" by my esteemed brethren. But I think most of them have failed to make a proper distinction between "judicial forgiveness" and "personal forgiveness." (con't)