

Upcoming Events

Business Meeting: Sunday, October 18 at 3:30 p.m.

Panera Bread Open Bible Study:
New location: see church website

Forgiveness...think about it...

“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.” –Mahatma Gandhi

“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.” –C.S. Lewis

“Forgiveness is not a feeling; it is a commitment. It is a choice to show mercy, not to hold the offence up against the offender. Forgiveness is an expression of love.” –Gary Chapman

October Birthdays

3 Betty Heitmeyer

28 Allan Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

Church of Christ
81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

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The Need for Some Good News

By Bill Brandstatter

I am tired of all the negative messages in the news these days. What the world needs now is good news. The good news needed is the news that has endured for generations. This good news will get us through any war or conflict. The good news of the gospel is needed for all men in all nations.

The gospel is never outdated. It never needs to be made culturally relevant. The gospel should never be comprised. God wants all men to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). Paul indicates the gospel has power. In Romans 1:16, the writer from Tarsus states that the gospel is *“the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”* The gospel can save. It is therefore good news for all men. Here are some good news headlines that would be great for men to hear:

WE CAN BE SAVED.

OUR LIFE CAN BE CHANGED.

WE CAN START OVER.

GOD CAN AND WILL FORGET OUR PAST.

THE NEW MAN BEGINS NOW.

Good news is available today. It's the same good news preached by the apostles. If that news is heeded and obeyed, man can have the same benefits as those in the early church. What the world needs is good news. What the world needs is the gospel!

Something We Should Never Say

By Joe Chesser

People say bad things all the time. I cringe inside when I hear people use God's name in inappropriate ways ("God" is often joked about, or used as a curse word, or most often merely as a common, ordinary expression of surprise – OMG!). God's name is holy and should never be used in these ways (Exodus 20:7). I also hate to hear people use vulgar, crude curse words in jokes, anger or just in daily conversations (I'll not give examples of this). God says to talk in this way is as out of place as sexual immorality (Ephesians 5:3-4).

But there's another phrase that people use that should never be said. I've heard it said in a variety of situations. Sometimes it's said when a marriage or a friendship goes sour. Sometimes it's said when a tragic, personal injury has been inflicted. I've even heard it said by people at church in reaction to some ungodly action or words. It's very likely that you also have heard someone say after being deeply hurt by what another person said or did. What is said is, "I will never forgive him for that! I just can't!"

I shudder when I hear people say that! Not because the words themselves are so bad, but because of what those words say about a person's heart and how he views God. We live in a cruel world. Satan is all around us doing evil things through people all the time. I mean really bad things: murdering children, beating a wife, stealing your life's savings through fraud, splitting churches, slandering reputations, hurting others while driving drunk, etc. But we should never think, feel or say, "I can never forgive him for that!" That's a reaction that only Satan wants us to have. And if we harbor hatred and unforgiveness in our hearts, we are the one who will suffer the most. It will eat us up!

I marvel at the heart of Joseph (Genesis 37-50). Because his brothers' hearts were filled with hatred and jealousy toward him, they sold him as a slave to foreign traders. Eventually he was bought by Potiphar in Egypt. However, when Potiphar's wife lied about him, he was put in prison and forgotten. Much later, through the providence of God, Joseph's brothers came humbly before him begging for help. If Joseph had been like many of us, hatred would

have so filled his heart at what they had done to him that he would have jumped at the chance for revenge. Instead he had a heart for God; he had a heart filled with forgiveness. What others intended as evil Joseph saw God's goodness.

Even in the worst of circumstances a person can choose to let God's love and forgiveness rule their hearts. It's not easy. Nobody ever says forgiveness is easy. Just ask Jesus on the cross! It's easier to scream and cry, to hate and retaliate. But, if we let God's love rule our hearts and with that love find the strength to forgive, we'll find a peace that goes beyond description (Philippians 4:6-7). Like Joseph, we'll rise above the evil around us into the heart of God. "I forgive you" is something we will never regret saying!

The Christian Tree

By Edd Sterch

If a Christian were a tree, what should it look like?

- It would have roots that grow downward. Roots help with strength and stability. Roots also bring nutrients to the tree. Deeply rooted in the Scriptures the Christian can stand strong.
- It would be healthy inward. A tree must be healthy from the inside out. Spiritual health for the Christian begins with the heart.
- It would stretch up ever upward. A tree is always growing, stretching its leafy branches toward the sky. The Christian must ever be growing toward and pointing to heaven.
- It would produce fruit outward. A fruit tree yields much produce. The Christian is to be productive in good works and fruit of the Spirit.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit."

(Jer. 17:7-8)