

## Forgiveness

By Joe Slater

Exactly what is forgiveness? What happens when God forgives a sinner? What happens when you or I forgive one who has sinned against us?

New Testament writers used two different words meaning forgive. The first expresses the idea of sending away. In fact that is its literal meaning in Matthew 13:36 – “Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house.” When God forgives, He sends our sins away. Matthew 9:2 uses this word as Jesus tells a paralyzed man, “Be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” Jesus sent his sins away.

The Old Testament foreshadowed sending sins away. Each year on the Day of Atonement, Israel’s High Priest put his hands on a goat’s head, confessed the sins of Israel, and sent the goat into the wilderness (Leviticus 16:5-10). As the goat symbolically carried Israel’s sins away, Jesus literally took our sins upon Himself and carried them away. He “bore (took away) our sins in His own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24). The second word translated “forgive” is the verb form of the noun “grace.” It means to bestow a favor, especially an undeserved favor. To forgive, then, is to favor the sinner by pardoning him and freeing him from the guilt and penalty of his sins. God did this for us, and we, likewise, are to forgive each other (Ephesians 4:32).

Biblical forgiveness is not unconditional. God forgives those who repent and obey Him. Jesus taught that we are to rebuke those who sin against us, and if they repent, forgive them (Luke 17:3-4). He did not say to forgive even if there is no repentance. God isn’t spiteful to those who haven’t repented, nor should we be. But forgiveness produces the restoration of a broken relationship, which is impossible unless the offender repents.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

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Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

July 25, 2021

### WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

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**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

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**Today’s Sermon: Saved, Secured and Satisfied**

Arthur will be preaching today.

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 12:1-6**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**valleycitieschurchofchrist.org**

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**www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc**

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the Psalms and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** July 28<sup>th</sup>, at the building, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew. Come at 6 and bring something to eat with us before the lesson if you like.
- ❖ **Next Potluck:** August 15<sup>th</sup>.



- **Please take the time to check out our new, beautiful floor downstairs! Thank you, Paul, and Arthur for painting it and putting the trim around it!**
- **The next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Regional Singing will be on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. It hasn't been decided yet where that will be.**

## PRAYERS

- Pray for **Paulette**, our new babe in Christ.
- **Dan Myers**, Paulette's friend, needs prayer for multiple health problems.
- Pray for **Zachary Cowles** as he has been deployed with the army for the next two years.
- **Jackie** was recently in Packer Hospital because she was retaining too much fluid. She is home now and much better, for which we are thankful.
- **Pat Guthrie** from Kittanning has lung cancer.
- Please pray for **Gail Westerhold** as she is having another kidney surgery on Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> to remove more cancer. She has asked us to pray for her.
- **Jerry** has been suffering weak spells and lack of energy.
- Pray for **Linnett Short, a former coworker of Paul's**. She has stage 3 lung cancer.
- **Arthur's younger sister, Sue**, has metastatic breast cancer and **his brother Chris** in England has Alzheimer's Disease.
- **Amy Connor's friend Denise Whitfield** has colon cancer and will soon have surgery.
- Please pray for **Nancy Holcomb** from the Horseheads church as she is suffering from dementia.
- **Pray for Dawn's sister Alice, who** is in the final stages of cancer and in hospice care.
- **Nancy Black**, who is a good friend of Ruthie's is suffering from complications of diabetes. She is an amputee.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.