



11, 2024

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 850 MINTER AVE., SHAFTER, CA 93263



Reminder..... The sign-up list for building cleaning is on the back-left table

August 9 – MOVIE NIGHT 6:00 p.m.

August 15 – Thursday night dinner Cooks: Sharon and Buggie

August 25 – Quarterly Luncheon

September 3 – Elder's Meeting 8:00 a.m.

September 7 – Prayer Breakfasts ~ Men in the kitchen at 8:30 a.m.
Ladies at 9:30 at Jan's

September 29 – Song and Supper

Thursday Meals PLEASE talk with Debra so she can set the September schedule. If you will help out with a dessert or cookies let LaDona know.



A BIG thank you to Darlene for repairing the walls and painting the bathroom in the nursery. It looks so much better.



We will be having our quarterly luncheon right after church on August 25th. This will be a potluck. You will find the sign-up sheet on the back table. Please sign up for what you will be bringing and plan to stay for lunch and fellowship.



BIBLE CLASS

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

John 6:6ff

Youth Class: Eddie Fisher

Children's Class: Debra Young

PRAYER TIME

9:15 AM – 9:30 AM

WORSHIP TIME

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Elders

Eddie Fisher	342-8337
Garry Nelson	331-3858
Mike Westbrook	910-2197

Deacon

Ron Nunlist	746-6531
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Minister

Jim Young	527-7026
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jimyoung2work@aol.com

Church Office 746-2205

Office Hours:

Monday ~ Tuesday ~ Wednesday
8 am to 1 pm

Thursday
11 am to 4:30 pm

Friday Out of the Office

Bulletin

Jan Nelson 332-6146

grammyjan51@yahoo.com

Sandy.Westbrook910-8143

mikewestbrook@att.net

Don't forget to check out our website

No te olvides de visitar nuestro sitio web

www.shafterchurchofchrist.com

Bible on your phone

MySpectrumWiFif8-2G

MySpectrumWiFif8-5G

password: purplelemon096

Pastor's Corner of Light: to Forgive or Not to Forgive?

A few weeks back I ran across an article by Mike Wittmer in the online Christian magazine "TGC". He was discussing the pro's and con's of forgiveness when the other party doesn't repent or ask for forgiveness. I share some of his thoughts:

In Eph 4:32 we are told to forgive just as God forgave us in Christ. That forgiveness is there waiting for us, but it isn't applied until we repent and follow the steps necessary to establish a restored relationship (one broken by sin). In reading that full section in Ephesians, it is clear that there is internal work going on in the hearts of the people. This internal work and growth is also necessary for us to cultivate an attitude of forgiveness, willing to offer unconditional forgiveness - when they repent. To illustrate this point, a person who has experienced a personal attack must find a way to stop or resist any vocal condemnation and/or a desire for payback. Instead, they find a way to absorb the debt owed to them and are ready to absolve the offender of the debt owed when requested. When you observe Christ's response on the cross: "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34) you see Christ has already done so in His heart and now brings that love for His crucifiers up to the Father - preparing the conditions needed for their forgiveness when they become believers (Acts 2:36,37).

In Mt 18:22 Peter is told to forgive his brother seventy times seven. The following parable tells how the servant asked for more time and instead, the debt was completely forgiven. This **forgiven** servant then refuses to forgive a fellow servant who owes him a much smaller debt and is subsequently punished. In other words - just as we have been granted forgiveness we too must be willing to forgive those who have repented, regardless of how many times they may act against us.

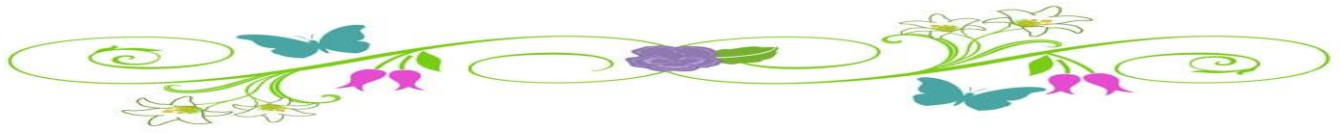
In our Christ-like attitude we do not hold a grudge against our offender. We begin working within our hearts to find the necessary forgiveness in preparation for the day in which our offender comes to us. Then, when we offer the words of forgiveness it is sincere and becomes a done deal. Their repentance is not the "beginning" of our forgiveness but the right-conclusion of our response. The consequences may remain, but the personal animosity and desire for revenge is long gone. You can immediately move on and forward with your life. The old saying about things being easier said than done is certainly applicable with some offenses. That is why it is so critical that each day, we wake up and ask the Lord into our lives and His Spirit into our hearts, so that we can live as much like Christ as possible.

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Jesus was a gentle person. Wherever true Christianity has gone, His followers have performed acts of gentleness and kindness.

- Billy Graham



***If you're God's child, when you sin,
you can run toward God and not away from him,
because all your sin is covered by the blood of Jesus.***

There are two starkly contrasting scenes, one at the beginning of the Bible and one at the end. In the beginning scene, we see Adam and Eve quickly clothing themselves and hiding from God in the guilt and shame that is the sad result of their sin (Genesis 3). It is a disaster too horrible to be expressed with the limited words of human language. Blessed with an unimpeded relationship with the Lord, Creator, and King of the universe, blessed with a garden lush with every good thing, they really did have it all. They were made by God and made for him. Their lives were meant to have him at the center. They were hardwired to enjoy eternal fellowship with him. Love for him and worship of him were to be the two principal motivators of all they did. How could this bond be so quickly broken? How could they be afraid of God? How could they try to hide from the One who was the reason for their entire existence? It is too sad to grasp but the answer to the questions is clear: sin, with its weight of guilt and shame, separated them from God and drove them from the garden of his presence and provision. The bond was broken; how would it ever be repaired?

The second scene is the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19). It too is a gathering of sinners, but they aren't cowering in shame. They aren't hiding in guilt. They aren't dreading his presence. They don't fear the power of his anger. No, these sinners are celebrating because the bond that was broken in the garden has been restored. They have been wed to their Savior forever. Forever they will be in his presence. Never again will they be separate from him. Never again will they hide. Never again will they be driven away. Their fellowship will never end. The sound of their celebration will never grow quiet. Their robes have been washed to purest white. There is no condemnation before them. There is not sin that separates them. It is a scene of such outrageous beauty that describing it would stretch human language beyond its limits.

What made the difference between these two scenes? Not human wisdom, strength, position, or righteousness. The difference is captured in one gloriously transformational word. Other than the name of Jesus, it may be the most important word in all the Bible: *grace*. Grace in the person and work – the life, death and resurrection – of Jesus is what made the difference. If you're God's child, stop hiding behind the trees of your shame. Step out into the light. There's a celebration in your future!

For further study and encouragement: Revelation 21
(Taken from New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp)



If you need prayer, please let the Elders know, put a note in the box in back of the auditorium or call Vivian Fisher (889-4075) to start the prayer chain.

*** NEW**

Lord, give me the same concern and compassion for the lost that you have. Open doors that I might share your message of love and salvation.

***Prayers for all those families affected by the on-going forest fires and other disasters around the country.**

***Pray for our continued growth and fellowship as God's family.**

***Rose** for continued healing of her wrist

***Gerald (Tank)** is having stents put in this week and his bladder cancer has returned. Treatment is yet to be determined.

***Christine Smart** update; they removed her feeding tube; further treatment is yet to be determined.

Christine, Mary C.'s daughter, continued prayers for healing from her knee surgery

Buddy continued prayers

Michelle, friend of Trina's, a GoFundMe me account has been set up to help with major medical bills if you care to assist or speak to Trina

Prayers that **Cheryl White** is allowed to go home soon from the rehab center

Election time and lots going on. Just remember we have our freedom to make the choice we pray will be the best choice for our country. Spend a lot of time praying for it to be a more kind time, that the candidates choose their words wisely and the parties wake up and be an example in how it's done. Also, pray that the media would not concentrate on this battle of words so much.

Hannah, Trina's daughter, continued prayer for life circumstances

Wesley, Connie's son, pray he has a good result in his court appearance in August in Idaho.

Barbara as she continues physical therapy for her shoulder

Unspoken Prayers . . . we know their names, and, above all, God knows them...

Please remember to email or text Jan or Sandy with any updates or changes for current and long term prayer list. We know that our prayer warriors pray for specific concerns for each person.



Pushing on past the fear and struggle, Lord, I find a second wind of faith while you cheer me on. What would I do without your encouragement and without your tender mercies that lift me up when I get too tired and the load I bear seems too heavy for me? You always lighten my load and carry my burden when I call on you. Thanks for giving me an extra measure of grace for this day. You're my dearest friend and companion. I love you.