

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

August 11, 2019

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

A Forgiving Heart

David Stafford

Perfection is a state in which we cannot reach. We are fallible and make mistakes. There are times in which we sin against our brethren, and there are times when our brethren sin against us. It is tragic when a brother or sister sins against us, but God has given us a way to restore that relationship. It is called forgiveness. When a brother (or sister) in Christ has sinned against me and repents, I have a responsibility to forgive him (Luke 17:3-4). God wills for us to have a forgiving heart.

Prevention of Forgiveness

Unfortunately, there are some attitudes that prevent a forgiving heart. The apostle Paul spoke to the Ephesian congregation about attitudes that prevent a forgiving heart when he said, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice” (Eph. 4:31). Bitterness is the attitude of one who holds a grudge. He resents forgiving the penitent brother. He holds on to that transgression and continues to bring up the charge of the offender. He is selfish in thinking about what the other person deserves rather than withholding what they deserve. This attitude must be put away to have a forgiving heart. Wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking, and malice are attitudes of uncontrolled anger and demonstrated through corrupt communication (Eph. 4:29). These attitudes must be put away to have a forgiving heart. These are the attitudes of the old (sinful, TCG) man.

Pattern of Forgiveness

A forgiving heart is an attitude of the new (saved, TCG) man. Paul gave us a pattern by which to follow to have a forgiving heart. Paul said, “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” (Eph. 4:32). A forgiving heart requires kindness. Kindness is produced by observing the golden rule: “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Mat. 7:12). I want to be forgiven, so I forgive others (c.f. Mat. 18:35). It is the attitude needed which demonstrates concern for others. Tenderheartedness is the attitude of compassion for others. It is the opposite attitude of hard-heartedness. This attitude is found in the selfless person ... God patterned forgiveness through His Son. We as humans do not deserve forgiveness. Yet, God, Who is rich in mercy, (Eph. 2:4) loved us to forgive us. Let us ensure we have these godly attitudes and consider the pattern God demonstrated in forgiving us.

A forgiving heart is an attitude that is acquired when we put away the attitudes of the old man. A forgiving heart is an attitude that is acquired when we consider the precious pattern God gave to us through His Son in forgiving us from our sins. May we all have a forgiving heart.

By the Numbers:

Week of 8/4/19

Contribution – \$2987

Attendance:

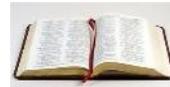
Sunday Bible Classes – 31

Sunday Worship – 56*

Wednesday Night – 40

**Total for the day*

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: When it is used lawfully (1 Tim. 1:8).

Q: True or False? The Law is made for a righteous man.

Answer to be given next week!

SERMON SPOTLIGHT:

AM — Obedience

1. What are two Old Testament accounts that illustrate the importance of obedience?

PM — The Parables of the Lost Sheep, Coin, & Son

1. Who drew near to hear these parables?
2. Who murmured at this?

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconcofc.com

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Goolam - India
Marlon Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES **TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME**

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Marcia Green, Kevin Green, Jerry Tippen, Wendy Traweek, Harold Myers, Joy Skipper, Ruth Coston, Lindy Brown, Kaitlyn Wilson, Kathy Lawrence, Virginia Wainwright, Melba Tippen Creech, Dewey Young, Stetson Ortega, Mike Jones, Kenneth Hendrix, Tim Green, Mildred Allhands, Anthony Ortega, Debbie Grice, Bill, Neal, & Xander Schooley & Andrew Brown (Leaving Monday for Branson, MO and returning Friday), Bettie Young & Anthony & Betsy Ortega (Traveling Thursday till Sunday, taking Stetson to his checkup in Houston), Chase Green & Family (Leaving Friday to attend Polishing the Pulpit in Sevierville, TN and returning the following Thursday)

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults: Be on the lookout for monthly events!
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: 4th Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted.

James 3:1-12 ***Chase Green***

Verse 1: “My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.” This verse is warning those who are teachers (masters) to take this responsibility very seriously, for teachers will receive a greater condemnation. That is, those teachers who do NOT take their responsibility seriously and teach false doctrine will be punished severely. When I was in preaching school, we had to sign a form saying that we understood the meaning of this verse, realizing how critical our job is to preach the Truth.

Verse 2: “For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.” In using the term “we,” James includes himself in saying that we as humans are imperfect. We all offend “in many things,” and the current discussion is how we offend in our speech.

James states that those who do not offend in word are “perfect” and “able also to bridle the whole body.” In other words, James is saying that it takes a very spiritually mature (perfect, or COMPLETE) Christian to be able to control the tongue. Controlling the tongue is very difficult, and James seemingly admitted here that even he had difficulty controlling his tongue.

Verses 3-4: “Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.” James gives two examples here of very small things that work for the purpose of control.

A bit is a metal piece that is placed in a horse's mouth, connected to the reins and a bridle, for the purpose of controlling the horse. Introduce a slight amount of unwanted pressure into a horse's mouth, and you can control his whole body.

A helm is the steering wheel of a ship. It is connected to the rudder, and, when turned, allows the ship to go where it needs to go. In comparison to the size of the entire ship, the helm and the rudder are very small, but they play a crucial role in controlling the entire ship.

Verse 5: “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a

matter a little fire kindleth!” Similarly to the bit and the helm, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it is a very important part. Even though the tongue is small, it “boasteth great things” in that it is capable of great good or great harm. Many people use their tongues for great harm, belittling, making fun of, and disparaging others. In this sense, the tongue is a “fire” capable of inflicting great damage.

Verse 6: “And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.” The greatest of wildfires often start out from a tiny spark, a cigarette carelessly tossed from a vehicle, or an unattended campfire. What may start out as a controlled burn can quickly progress to a state of being out of control, destroying thousands of acres.

The tongue, if managed carelessly, can inflict great damage. The damage may appear small at first, but then it grows and grows until it causes terrible affliction. For example, how many children have been tormented week after week by relentless school-yard bullies, who use their tongues to tear down their victims? Sadly, this is a growing problem that young people are facing every day.

Verses 7-8: “For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.” Going back to verse 2 where James said “in many things we offend all,” I think James is saying here that even though man has been able to tame all sorts of animals throughout history, something as seemingly simple as the human tongue is near impossible to tame. Even though some of us are certainly better than others at controlling our tongues, we still tend to have great difficulty with this, and from time to time even the most self-controlled among us tend to slip up and inflict “deadly poison” on others with our tongues.

Verses 9-10: “Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.” One cannot rightly worship God and, in the next instant, curse men with his tongue. God cares greatly for His creation, and He takes it personally when people use their tongue to disparage others! Blessing and cursing cannot rightly proceed out of our mouths. If they are, then our religion is amiss and we had better repent!

Verses 11-12: “Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.” James concludes this section about the tongue by giving several oxymoronic examples.

A fountain does not produce both sweet and bitter water from the same fount. You may find sweet water here, and bitter water there, but you will never find sweet and bitter water coming from the same place!

A fig tree does not bear olives. Fig trees bear figs, and olive trees bear olives! This is obvious scientific fact, sometimes called “the seed principle,” (the fact that every manner of plant reproduces after its KIND; see Gen. 1:11-12).

Finally, a fountain cannot yield at the same time both saltwater and freshwater. This is simply impossible because of the laws of nature. Just as these things are true, so it must be true that we as Christians should not use our mouths for both blessing and cursing.

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”
James 4:17

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