

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Church Members

Virginia Alexander: Meniere's Disease
Rhyan Beverly: chronic health problems
Julie Blades: cancer
Kerry Burton: cancer
Joanne Crawford: Wellington PARC
Glenn Doss: chronic health problems
William Drake: Hillside Center
Mike Griffith: heart problems
Kevin Kline: LHON
Janice Lee: recovering from surgery
Charlotte McElvain: Ridgewood Terrace
Joyce Potts: Meniere's Disease
Scott Settle: heart problems
Louise Smith: chronic health problems
Terry Starks: recovering from surgery
Gail Turner: recovering from surgery
Kim Wiles: heart & kidney problems

Family & Friends

Cancer: Debbie Baker, Billy Banks, Lisa Brewer, Jim Combs, Danny Edmonds, April Ehrlich, Christine Estrada, Brandon Hall, Dave Hammer, Steve Higginbotham, Jady Hill, Missy Jones, Geoffrey Kline, June Morris, Shelly Patterson, Dean Stokes, Sandy Treadway, Lois VanWinkle, Dan Winkler
Heart Disease: Kay Clark, Regina Davis, Bruce Gower, Annette Miller, Archie Morris, Susan Scott, Rosemary Starks
Nursing Care: Rita Chappell, Patsy Davis, Anna Lee Hampton, Emerson & Mary Frances Hartford, Bonnie Wiles
Other Health Problems: Dennis Aubrey, Don Blackwell, Adam Boldon, Samuel Cox, Keith Elkins, Daniel Groves, Britney Harrison, Maria Johnson, Crystal Jones, Debra Key, Inez Loyola, Richard Metcalfe, Natasha Moore, Justin Nesselroad, Ray Nix, Kelly Oldham, Presley Pearce, Renee Perry, Brittney Payton, Sherry Phillips, Mary Robertson, Jason Rollins, Grayson Shofner,

ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTION

For the week of February 21, 2021

Bible Study	N/A
Morning Worship	54
Evening Worship	N/A
Contribution	\$2717.31
Budget	\$3025.00
Wednesday Bible Study	N/S

TODAY'S SERMONS

AM: This is the Way

John 14:1-6

PM: Virtual Bible Study

Psalm 29

OUR ELDERS:

- **Dennis Brasher** (270) 825-1661 or (270) 871-2170
- **Terry Moore** (270) 871-7111

OUR DEACONS:

- **Steve Curtis** - *Visitation*
- **Mike Griffith** - *Benevolence*
- **Deyone Miller** - *Worship*
- **Dave Sprague** - *Building & Grounds*
- **Byron VanWinkle** - *Technology*

Madisonville Church of Christ

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TRY FORGIVENESS

By Russell M. Kline

It seems to me that we, the people of the United States of America, are becoming less and less forgiving. I see evidence of this every day in the so-called, "cancel culture," which has become increasingly popular, as Americans have become more connected to social media. If anyone expresses an unpopular opinion about something, they immediately become targets of online threats and intimidation, which are designed to bully them into conforming with more popular points of view. If those tactics fail, then those who refuse to conform become ostracized by those who do conform to what is considered to be the "correct" point of view. Such actions have led to many prominent people in the public eye being fired from their jobs and shunned from public life. In some of the most egregious cases, people were shunned in this way because of things they may have said or done many years ago—even when they were minor children. The result of all this is that the majority of people in the U.S.A. now refuse to extend any sense of understanding and forgiveness to those with whom they disagree. We no longer discuss and debate points of contention, but instead we draw hard lines and seek to punish anyone who would dare to cross them in our presence. I fear that this kind of thinking is bleeding into the church of Christ.

I've heard some Christians say that they "just don't see how the Lord could forgive them for all the terrible things they've done," but those people are wrong. The apostle Paul considered himself to be the "chief" of all sinners (1 Tim. 1:15), and he marveled at how the Lord was inclined to forgive him and to put him into the ministry (1 Tim. 1:12,13), but he never thought of himself as being unforgivable. To be sure, Paul had done some terrible things: "*Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the*

Opportunities to Study and Worship:

Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. / **Sunday Morning Worship:** 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m. / **Wednesday Bible Study:** 7:00 p.m.

Listen to "What Does the Bible Say?" Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. on WFMW (AM 730)

chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities” (Acts 26:9-11). While I suspect that some Christians living today may not think that a man like Paul should even be a preacher, I am thankful to God that Paul never thought that way of himself. Paul was once a major force behind the persecution and murder of innocent Christians, but he was able to turn his life around and become an equally powerful force behind the spread of Christianity. He was forgiven by God and by his brethren—and that made all the difference!

I’ve heard some Christians say that they think that some sins are so heinous that they are “unforgivable,” but those people are wrong. As we have seen already, Paul had been responsible for the persecution and murder of innocent Christians, but the Lord still forgave him for what he had done. Who are we to withhold forgiveness from some people, when God forgives all men freely (Psa. 103:2, 3)? Jesus said, “Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him” (Luke 17:3). Jesus did not say, “if your brother sins against you, never forgive him.” Neither did He say, “If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him—as long as it wasn’t an unforgivable sin.” Jesus did go further and say, “And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, I repent, you shall forgive him” (Luke 17:4). Jesus did not ever say that Christians do not have to forgive sinners who repent—no matter what the circumstances may be. The Lord’s teaching is that, since God places no limit on the number of times He will forgive us, we should not place limits on the number of times we will forgive others (Mat. 18:21,22). The love and mercy of God knows no limits and neither should ours!

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He said, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Mat. 6:14,15). If we withhold forgiveness from anyone—from ourselves or from anyone else—we make it so that God cannot forgive us. The reason is that, according to the passage quoted above, unforgiveness is a sin, in and of itself. How can God possibly forgive us for our sins, if we refuse to forgive others for their sins? It’s like something that John wrote about love, in First John 5:20 and 21, “If someone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.” Hatred has no place in the hearts of those who love God!

As Christians, we need to lead the way in teaching our society to be forgiving. No matter how bad we may imagine our sins to be, they are not unique to us. In First Corinthians 10:13, the apostle Paul wrote, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” We may think of our own sins as being unforgivable. We may even think that the sins of others are unforgivable. But, the truth of the matter is that the only sin God will not forgive is the sin of which we will not repent. That is the essence of what “blasphemy against the Spirit” is. If we will not forgive others—even ourselves—then God will not forgive us (Mat. 6:14,15). If we fail to learn this lesson, we may find ourselves on the wrong side of eternity. If we fail to teach this lesson to the rest of the world, what kind of a place will the world become? Personally, I don’t like the idea of living in a world where love, understanding, and forgiveness are in short supply!

YOUTH NEWS

- *BibleQuest 2021* is scheduled for Saturday, July 31. Questions will come from the New King James Version of Psalms 1 - 50. **Russell Kline** has begun a Youtube channel for BibleQuest, where he will post videos, which will also be available on the BibleQuest Facebook page. We will be posting new videos every week.



GOOD WORKS IN PROGRESS

- ◆ The elders are asking everyone who attends worship services and Bible studies at the church building to wear a facemask and to observe social distancing protocols. Please do not come to church, if you have a fever, or are experiencing any other symptoms of illness. If we all will observe these simple rules, we can help to keep each other safe during this perilous time of pandemic.
- ◆ In a recent meeting, the elders decided that the 2021 edition of the *Madisonville Church of Christ Bible Lectureship* should be postponed until a later date. It is hoped that in the second half of the year, the severity of the pandemic will be lessened and we will be better able to host the event. Please pray for this and other efforts that we are planning in 2021.

FAMILY NEWS

- ◇ **William Drake** was released from Baptist Health Madisonville last week. He is back at Hillside Center, where he is undergoing physical therapy.
- ◇ **Kerry Burton** had surgery last week, at the hospital in Owensboro, Kentucky. He is recovering at home. Please remember him in your prayers.
- ◇ **Bill Eaton’s** brother, **Ralph Eaton**, died last week in Bowling Green, Kentucky. His funeral arrangements will be handled by Hardy & Son Funeral Home, in Bowling Green. Please visit their website for more information: www.hardyandsonfuneralhomes.com.

NEWS OF THE BROTHERHOOD

- * The 54th Annual *Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship* has been rescheduled for May 23-27. The theme is “Magnify His Name.” be sure to visit their website www.msop.org for more information.
- * Watch the *Gospel Broadcasting Network* 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, at their web site: www.gbntv.org.



Visit 365.polishingthepulpit.com and click on “Sign Up.” Then, choose the option that says “I am a member of a subscribing congregation” and enter the required information. When you are approved, you will receive an email with further instructions. Contact Russell Kline, if you have any questions about this service.