

PARK HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Did You Know?

A Word Or Two (or three) From Wally

For most folks, our past is what keeps us from growing in the future. Someone has hurt us, abused us, or controlled us for so long we don't know how to get free.

Jesus said, "If the Son shall set you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8: 36)

So, if I am not free and Jesus wants to set us free, how do we get there?

First, we must admit that Jesus told us to forgive everyone, not just the ones we feel like forgiving.

"Lord how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." (Matthew 18: 21-22)

Our responsibility is to forgive.

But you say, "Wally, you don't know what they did to me". I don't. But God does and these are His words. If He tells us to do something, He always provides the power to accomplish the task.

Second, we must come out of our denial. Denial is recounting the event or ignoring it and then saying "It doesn't bother me anymore."

Guess what? It still bothers you or you would not have said that statement. We must admit to our selves what was done was wrong and should not have happened.

Jesus said "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." (John 8:31)

It is not disloyal or dishonoring our parents to say what they did was wrong. It is the truth. Those are the facts. It happened! People want to keep us in prison for their security. Jesus wants to set us free from that prison.

Remember, forgiving someone does not mean we are saying what they did is OK. It isn't!

What God provided for us is the ability to take the judgment and anger and give it into His hands knowing He is a Just and Righteous God.

How I have prayed when I haven't "felt like forgiving" is something like this. "Lord, you have told me to forgive so and so. They have really hurt me and I don't want to or feel like it. But, you have told me to forgive them, and I want to be obedient to you, so as an act of my will, I am forgiving them and placing them into your hands. I need you help to change my attitude and to remove the control they have had over me. I want to obey you and be free of this. I'm in your hands. Thank you for hearing me."

In my experience, I still remember some of the events, but the power of that person over me is gone. Christ set me free!

Won't you join me and be the free forgiven person Christ died for. Forgive them.

See you Sunday,
Wally

- **Donna Porter went to be with the Lord and her funeral was Feb. 8?** She received her new body! Be in prayer for her family.
- **Church retreat is Feb. 23-25 in Ruidoso?** If you can go we can fit you in. Call the church.
- **Our new sign and the Fort Bliss Monitor newspaper are creating interest in the city for Park Hills?** Thank Greg Davis for taking the time to update the message regularly.
- **The small groups for "Just Walk Across the Room" have been beneficial for many in their outlook on life?** If you haven't finished the book, don't set it aside, but continue reading it, it's got some great ideas.
- **The "For Men Only" breakfasts are going well?** They are to help men understand how women think and how to meet their needs. 1st & 3rd Saturdays for breakfast at the church, 8 a.m.
- **Jay Gilliland said the pictorial directory should be here any day?** Thanks Jay for organizing it.
- **Clark Peters and Jay Gilliland carry the load of announcing on KERP Christian Radio, 1590am on weekdays?** Great job guys!
- **The portable is getting full with rummage for the sale the weekend following Easter?** This sale of good, useable, donated items is used by our Women's Fellowship to provide extra blessings to our missionaries. Please no clothes.
- **The search is on for talent?** The Annual PHCC Talent Show will be held on Saturday March 3rd at 6:30pm with refreshments provided. Please see Rob or Barbara Baldwin to be placed on the program.
- **20 - 25 of our church family will be attending the church retreat at Bonita Park in Ruidoso?** Please be praying that God will use this time to equip and strengthen those attending
- **For those not attending the retreat, services will still be held here Sunday morning?** Allen will be preaching so come and join us as we worship the Lord together.
- **Did you know that as Christians we are never to stop growing but continue to become more like Christ every day?** One good way to make allow that to happen in your life is to study and fellowship with other Christians. We offer many small group opportunities each week (and can start others). Join one today and allow that growth to begin.
- **That the past four weeks will have been wasted if we do not begin looking for those walk across the room opportunities.** Lets ask God to open our eyes to the spiritual needs of the people around us this week.



Allen's Thoughts . . .

Many years ago someone asked the question, "If you were arrested for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

I was recently reminded of this when reading 2 Corinthians 3:18

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

Exodus 34:29 tells us that, *"When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD."*

This radiant glory, from an external relationship with the LORD was so fierce that the people were afraid to come near him. It was seen; it was noticeable; but it was also temporary.

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While we are not told in Exodus that the glory faded from Moses' face we can deduce from: *"his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD (Exodus 34:30) and when (ever) he came out Moses' face was radiant"* (34:34 f.) that when he was *not* talking to God, the glory was fading.

The apostle Paul in writing to the Church in Corinth compares this temporary glory to that *ever-increasing* glory of the Christian.

With the Lord living within you, instead of on a mountain, that glory should never fade. And as you spend more and more time in His word, hopefully becoming more and more like Him, that glory instead of fading should actually increase; it should be seen seen; it should be noticeable.

My prayer is that the glory of the LORD be seen in me and that more than enough evidence be present to convict me of the Christianity I claim.

Seeking the Harvest with You
Allen

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