

One of the Greatest Gifts You Can Give to Someone (and Yourself)

By Edd Sterchi

There is a gift that you can give to others that is absolutely amazing and it does not cost a thing (monetarily, anyway). It is never the wrong color or size. Everyone who receives this gift always loves and cherishes it. And, amazingly enough, when we give this to someone, we also receive something in return. It's a win-win. Ready to hear what it is? It is the gift of forgiveness.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines forgive as: "to stop feeling angry or resentful towards (someone) for an offense or mistake." Our English word forgive comes from the Old English words "for" and "gifan" (give). So forgiveness in the original root means to give (as in give up). In forgiving someone, we give up on anger, resentment, and revenge – and in doing so, we give the person we are forgiving something, and we are giving ourselves something, also.

I'm sure you have heard the phrase, "forgive and forget." Notice within those words are the words "give" and "get." When we forgive another, we give them a renewed relationship, but we also give ourselves peace of mind – those thoughts of anger and resentment have been let go.

Jesus gave the reminder that if we want forgiveness from God, then we must forgive our fellow humans (Matt. 6:14-15). It is God's design that forgiveness is a gift to others and to ourselves.

Paul, through inspiration, wrote in Col. 3:12-15, "Therefore...put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts..." When we learn to give forgiveness to others, we make it much easier for the peace of God to rule in our hearts.

So do you want to give a great gift and receive a great gift at the same time? Then learn to forgive. Two for the price of one – what a deal! Forgiveness is truly the gift that keeps on giving!

Edd Sterchi preaches for the
Broadway Church of Christ in Campbellsville, KY

Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Tom

Song Leader: Mark

Opening Hymn:

122—There Stands A Rock

Opening Prayer

Dale

Hymn:

376—Beautiful Isle

Scripture Reading:

Ryan

Matthew 6:5-15

Hymn:

310—Gethsemane

Lord's Supper:

Myron and Gary

Hymn:

645—When The Saints God Marching In

Sermon: Tom

Invitation Hymn:

640—Softly and Tenderly

Closing Hymn:

227—Stand Up Stand Up For Jesus

Closing Prayer:

Ray

PRAYER LIST

The Model Prayer

- *Pat is now at home.
- *Juanita's sister Betty.
- *Mary and her family.
- *Nina's brother, James.
- *Robert and Sara
- *Pat and Ron.
- *Juanita and her family.
- *Larry and Ruth
- *Dale, his mother and his cousin
- Jayna and her family. His friend
- Zarna and her family.
- *Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
- *Our congregation
- *Our Veterans

ASSUREDLY	BEFORE	BREAD	CORNERS
DAILY	DEBTORS	DELIVER	EARTH
FATHER	FOREVER	FORGIVE	GLORY
HALLOWED	HEARD	HEATHEN	HEAVEN
HYPOCRITES	KINGDOM	KNOWS	MANNE
NEITHER	OPENLY	PLACE	POWER
REPETITIONS	REWARD	SECRET	SHALL
STANDING	STREETS	SYNAGOGUES	TEMPTATION
THEIR	THEREFORE	THINGS	THINK
TRESPASSES	WORDS	YOURS	

CALENDAR

- Dec. 15—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Dec. 15—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Dec. 22—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Dec. 22—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Dec. 29—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Dec. 29—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Jan. 2—b. Carl
- Jan. 5—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Jan. 5—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Jan. 5—Business Meeting
- Jan. 12—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Jan. 12—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom

T E R C E S F S A B O R I T H C D D
 F Y O G U F O R N S R G H I E O E E
 V E E P L A C E M O S E E N A R W L
 S Y N A G O G U E S I U A T V N O I
 R E W A R D R Y F R W T R D E E L V
 K N I H T T H Y O O E O I E N R L E
 R E N N A M H I R U R S N T D S A R
 G N I D N A T S T R R E E K E L H S
 H N O I T A T P M E T S V P A P Y S
 Y S G N I H T N W R D S S E E E E S
 P L L A H S E O Y O A A O U R R S R
 O H E A V H P E R F I P N O L T K F
 C R E H T I E N E E L S F Y R I O Y
 R F A A W T H E H R Y E R E N R L D
 I D E B T O R S T E B R E G G N R W
 T H I L L A R L A H S T D I E A O F
 E O R G I V E D F T S O V P E Y O U
 S P A C M L L B S D M E O H D Q G P

Hidden Message: _____

Answer to Puzzle: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Many of us spend half our time wishing for things we could have if we didn't spend half our time wishing.

SUNDAY: Bible Class — 10:00 am; Worship — 11:00 am; Evening — 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 pm
Website: Chardonchurchofchrist.org
E-mail: church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com
Pod Cast: Chardon.podbean.com