From the Pastor's Pen...

January 9, 2019

"I was wrong. I'm sorry. Forgive me." Those can be some of the hardest words to say. The sting of your failures is somehow magnified when you have to openly acknowledge them to others.

I remember when Christian was small, I snapped at her in front of a group of people. I had gotten frustrated. What I said was hurtful and unnecessary. I instantly knew I was wrong. So, I called her over to my side, and in front of all of those people, I apologized to her. That's no fun, but it was the right thing to do.

While admitting you were wrong and seeking forgiveness aren't easy things to do, there is benefit in doing so. Let me mention a few of those benefits.

1. It helps to keep you humble. Acknowledging your failures before others can keep you from becoming prideful.

2. It's healing. It really is amazing how words like, "I'm sorry. I was wrong." Can be like salve on a wound.

3. It honors the Lord. When we have hurt someone, the way we show Christ-likeness is to humble ourselves and apologize.

We live in a fallen world. Sin has taken a toll on all of us. Sometimes in our fallenness we are going to hurt others. When that happens, it's time to swallow our pride and say these words, "I'm sorry. I was wrong. Forgive me."

Bro. Paul

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JJ Cory's Column...

In Ephesians 1:18-19, Paul prays that the eyes of the Ephesian believers' hearts would be opened so they would know three very specific things. One – that they would know the hope of God's calling. Two – that they would know the rich glory of the inheritance they have in Jesus. And three – that they would know God's surpassingly great power towards believers.

Here is the passage from New American Standard:

¹⁸"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."

God has called us into such a great and wonderful hope. He has redeemed us, rescued us, saved us, and adopted us as sons and daughters, and has given us the assuring hope that we will be with Him forever. What a great hope we have in Christ!

And our inheritance is not only eternity with our Father, but Paul says in chapter 1, verse 3 that "God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." Just think on that...our inheritance contains every spiritual blessing that possibly exists in heaven. Every good thing, all good things, they belong to us. God has given them to us.

God has also made His infinitely great power available to us through Christ. He loves us, forgives us, protects us, and provides for us. He is faithful and merciful to us always. And all of these attributes stream from His unending, unlimited, immeasurable power. What a great God we serve!

Singing His Praises! Bro. Cory

Katey's Korner...

Family Bible Challenge 52 Verses Every Christian Should Know

January 1-5	Hebrews 13:8
January 6-12	John 15:9
January 13-19	Psalm 1:6
January 20-26	Titus 3:5
January 27-Feb. 2	Psalm 139:14

L.A.C.E.

Monday, January 14 @ 6:00p.m. Focus on Operation Christmas Child We will be cleaning out and organizing one of the rooms in the fellowship hall to serve as our Operation Christmas Child headquarters.

> January Donations: Hats Scarves Socks Christmas/winter stickers or craft items

Love in Christ,

Katey

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Caleb's Connections...

John 4:25-26

"The woman said to Him, 'I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am He.'"

This comes at the pinnacle of Jesus' conversation with a Samaritan woman at a well. One aspect of the story that I often overlook is just who Jesus is talking to. This was a woman that all of society had passed up on. She was an outcast of her own people, and a Samaritan (hated by the Jews). The culture of that day would have told Jesus to just pass her by, to keep going on His way. But Jesus knew better. We as Christians are called to follow this example. We need to go to the outcasts, to the people that no one else wants to go to. If we want to see these people in heaven, we must do like Jesus did and minister to them.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that God gives us opportunities to minister to the lost, and that we don't pass up on it

- Pray that our students will use their schools as the mission field that god has given them

Announcement

Dnow 2019 sign up has officially started! Please sign up in the glass hallway or down in the youth room.

From what's on my heart,

Caleb

The Record Speaks

<u>January 6, 2019</u>	
Sunday School Attendance	93
Guests	0
December Sunday School Avg. Attendance	108
November Income	\$21,656.87
November Expense	\$20,676.47

The Lord's Additions

<u>September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019</u>	
By Letter	2
By Baptism	2
By Statement	
Total	4

L.A.C.E. Monday, January 14th at 6:00p.m.

Operation Christmas Child January Donations: Hats, Scarves, Socks, Christmas/Winter Stickers or Craft Items

Food Pantry Needs Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Bars of Soap, Hand Soap, Garbage Bags, Soup

2nd Sunday Ushers Chuck Bunn Jeff Seal Pat Cappleman Danny Trotter Bill Lowry, Jr. Kevin Tillotson

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