

Today's Sermons

Morning: TBA

Evening: TBA

WELCOME!

YOU ARE OUR HONORED GUEST.
PLEASE KNOW THAT WE
APPRECIATE YOUR PRESENCE.

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	27
Sunday AM Worship	46
Sunday PM Worship	NA
Wednesday Bible Study	24
Daily Bible Readers	6
Offering	\$ 1522
Building Fund	\$95,000

Please Remember in Prayer

Bible Studies

Lindy Hiatt
Savannah Bedenbaugh
Karissa Stanley
Jim & Amanda Winters
Everett & Louise Morefield
Linda Holman
Robin Brown
David Boone
Donnie Calhoun

Richard Shepherd (cancer)

Alice Turnmire
Kiana Miller
Eula Osborne (inflammation)
Steven & Jessica Winters
Fred Absher Family
Shelby McNeill Family
Jolene McKenzie
Ronnie Sturgill
Brethren in India (cyclone)

Move to New Building

Mable Vannoy
Jean Miller
Lee Roy Shepherd
Evangelistic Efforts
Paul Ashley
J C Greene Family
Clayton & Vivian Winters
Robert Cooper (cancer)



For Audio Lessons, Past Bulletins, Bible Studies and More
<http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org>



Minister:

Tim Canup

preacher@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:..... 10:00am
AM Worship:....11:00am
PM Worship:.....6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSK

15th Annual Lectureship

*Jesus Christ: What He
Called Himself*
September 28-30, 2012

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our Visitors!**

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Volume V

January 1, 2012

Number 1

"PLEASE GOD,
FORGET..."

Gary L. Hutchens



The Psalmist recorded Israel's prayer to God from long ago. "Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, for we have been brought very low" (Ps. 79:8). In this prayer the people are asking God to forget their former sins. The text of the Psalm would seem to fit the period of Israel's captivity in Babylon. God allowed the Babylonians to conquer Judah, destroy Jerusalem and the temple therein and take the people into Babylon as captives. In time, the Medes and Persians conquered Babylon, but it was seventy years before the first of the people of Judah were allowed to return to their homeland.

If the Babylonian captivity was indeed the setting for the 79th Psalm, the people certainly had much iniquity they would have longed for God to forget. God allowed them to be conquered because of their great sin against Him. They had become zealous worshippers of idols and, as such, had become blatantly unfaithful to God. In spite of His many attempts over many years to bring them to repentance, they consistently went back into idolatry. When God allowed a nation whom the Israelites considered to be heathens to conquer Judah and remove them from their homeland, only then did the people of Judah finally come to their senses. They repented of their idolatry and put that practice away from them once and for all.

Continued Inside

The request of the prayer is intriguing, in essence "Please God, forget our sins." It's a biblical concept. In fact, under the New Covenant (Testament), God promises those who live faithful Christian lives that He will forget their sins. "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more" (**Heb. 8:12**).

Obviously, God is not forgetful, at least not in the sense that human beings experience forgetfulness. Yet God promises to forget (forgive) the sins of those who turn to Him in repentance and properly seek His forgiveness. It's not that it slips God's mind but rather that He chooses to forget our sins. When God forgives one who properly seeks His forgiveness, it's as if the sin never happened. The slate is totally clean, so to speak. There is no more record of the sin in God's mind. It has been, in an absolute sense, forgiven (forgotten)!

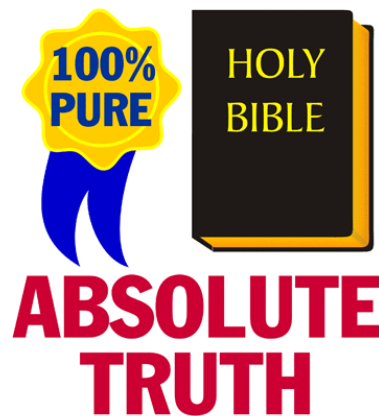
That's God's mercy and grace! The point at which God chooses to forget a person's sins is clear. It is when that person repents of his sins and seeks God's forgiveness through baptism into Christ. Ananias asked Saul, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins..." (**Acts 22:16**).

Are you carrying around with you a burden of sin? Wouldn't you like for God to forget your sins? The opportunity is just as real for you as it is for everyone else. If you will repent of your sins and surrender to your Savior in baptism, the blood that He shed on the cross long ago will still cleanse you of your guilt. As you are baptized into Christ, God will forget (forgive) your former iniquities. What a blessing! What are you waiting for?

Announcements

SINGING AT MARGATE REHAB
Monday, January 9, 6:30 pm

LADIES' NIGHT OUT
To Be Announced



The Church

The church is not made of people who believe they are better than others, but rather it is made of those who realize that they should be better than they are and must continually strive to do better always.

The church is not made of sinless people, but people who realize they are following a perfect Lord and a perfect law and therefore must do the very best they can.

The church is not made of people who never make mistakes, but those who often acknowledge their mistakes and then forsake them. Never must we seek to justify them or continually make the same mistakes over and over again.

The church is not trying to withdraw from everyone, but rather to draw everyone into its fellowship and love who are willing to walk in the light where God the Father and the Christ are found.

The church is not trying to set up arbitrary rules to hinder anyone, but rather to show the rule of Christ which helps everyone.

The church is not trying to take the joy out of your life, but rather is trying to put real joy in every life it touches.

The church is not trying to separate you from your money, but rather is trying to keep your money from separating you from God.

The church is not trying to become the master of your life, but rather trying to get you to master yourself.

The church is not trying to rob your life of priorities, but rather trying to get you to put the priorities in your life.

The church may not be everything, but until it is your something it will remain nothing...to you.

Andrew Connally