Happy Birthday

Connie Mallett April 30th Coryell Day May 7th Jana Wall May 18th

What Men Have Done to Hell

* Atheists, skeptics and modernists have eradicated it by their "wonderful" powers of "reason".

* "Christian Scientists" have attributed it to improper thinking, the figment of bad imagination, or "malicious animal magnetism".

* Universalists have removed the need of fearing it since they teach that all will be saved anyway.

* Unitarians and others have decided that the only real heaven or hell are encountered by men in this life by pleasant or unpleasant experiences.

* "Jehovah's Witnesses" have reduced it to annihilation, eternal non-existence rather than eternal punishment.

* Many Protestant denominations have taken away any concern about being lost from millions by their doctrine of "once saved, always saved".

* Catholicism has assured millions that they will not go there because of her sacraments and rituals, and has caused many to be more concerned about an imaginary "purgatory".

* Many have sought to remove the eternal duration and the awful torment of hell by their own concept of God's love.

* But what the Bible says about hell remains true. You may read about it in: Matthew 18.8-9; 25.41,46; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 14.10-11; 20:10, 15; 21.8. - by Bill Crews

Those to Serve

(B) Jorge Garza(FV) Doug Pruett(O) Mike Mallett(A) Mike Lovell1st prayer Judd Wall

2nd prayer Keith Stifflemire Announcements: Calvin Burks Singing: Kevin Grant

> April 21st Men's Business Meeting April 28th Noon Fellowship May 5th Mission Sunday May 12th Mother's Day May 19th Men's Business Meeting May 26th Noon Fellowhip

> > Prayer List: Letha Sheldon Jorge Garza Joyce Windham Dora Martinez David Jones Tammy Parker Anita Adams Pray for our Nation Our Troops Law Enforcement Rescue Personnel



Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am Bible Study 10:20 am Worship 12:30 pm Afternoon Wednesday Night 6:00 pm

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Forgiveness

(6th / final in a series)

Since we are to forgive others "just as God in Christ also hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32), it seems very appropriate to study how God forgives. We've learned that He 1) is willing to forgive, 2) is 'aggressive' in forgiving us, 3) places conditions on us in order to be forgiven, 4) forgives absolutely, 4) forgives permanently, and 5) forgives repeatedly. We should imitate Him in all these ways when others sin against us.

Finally, let us observe that forgiveness does not always remove all the consequences of our misdeeds. Some examples will illustrate our meaning:

- 1) A man is abusive of his wife and children. For years he is negligent and mean. Finally he 'comes to himself', repents, and asks their forgiveness. They forgive him, but it is unreasonable to imagine that his family will ever be rid of the terrible scars that have been inflicted. He is forgiven, by his family and by God, but that family has been changed forever by his wrongs.
- 2) 2) Another man cheats on his wife. Thankfully he realizes how horribly he has sinned against her and God. He begs forgiveness, and it is granted by both. But things are not the same as before he made those wicked choices. She decides to divorce him (her rightful choice). He is forgiven, but he must live alone the rest of his life.
- 3) 3) In a moment of uncontrolled rage a man strikes another. The blow inflicts a mortal wound. He is arrested, convicted, sentenced. He mourns, repents, and seeks forgiveness. Can he be forgiven? Of course! But he must still suffer the consequences of his deed.

Forgiveness is a wonderful thing - but, how much better to live so as to limit the need to approach God and man seeking it.

An Advance

Andy Cook has written about something that may not be widely known about golfer Harvey Penick.

Millions of golfers know the name of Harvey Penick. His first book, Harvey Penick's Little Red Book, became a surprising best-seller, selling more than 1 million copies in 1992, quickly earning the title of the best-selling sports book of all time.

But by the time Penick even showed his notes – the genesis for his book – to a local writer, he was nearly 90 years old. Penick wanted to know if the book was worth publishing. The writer read it and told him he liked the book. In fact, by the next evening, the same man left word with Penick's wife that Simon & Schuster had agreed to an advance of \$90,000.

When the writer saw Penick later, the old man seemed troubled. Finally, Penick came clean. With all his medical bills, he said, there was no way he could advance Simon & Schuster that much money. It took a while, but finally the writer convinced Penick that the publisher would pay him the \$90,000 . . . not the other way around!

Andy Cook makes this application: What a joy to realize that instead of needing to pay God an insurmountable bill for sins already committed, God has decided to give us the priceless gift of grace – our sins are already paid for, in full. *

It's true. Our sins cause us to be indebted to God with "an insurmountable bill" that we could never pay with our own resources.

So God paid our debt for us. He gave His one and only Son Jesus to die for our sins on the cross to pay the price for our redemption (John 3:16; Ephesians 1:7).

"He [Jesus] is the propitiation [atoning sacrifice] for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2 ESV).

Our debt of sin has been paid, in full, by Jesus. However, we must accept His payment for our sins through our trusting obedience.

God will save from sin and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

"He paid a debt He did not owe I owe a debt I could not pay I needed someone to wash my sins away And now I sing a brand new song 'Amazing Grace' all day long Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay." -- Author Unknown

Your debt has been paid. Enjoy the benefits of the salvation and life that Jesus has made possible, by accepting His offer on His terms.

by Greg Gwin