TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Bobby Rader / Opening Prayer by: Ken Coleman
Morning Assembly Song Leader: Bobby Rader

Jesus Is Well and Alive Today
#450 Give Me the Bible

Scripture Reading by: Rock Cary
#324 alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

Communion Devotional by: Daniel Balch
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#145 All Hail the Power of Jesus Name
Sermon: "Seize the Day!"
Ecclesiastes 9:1-12

#797 Lord We Come Before Thee Now
#414 Anywhere with Jesus
Closing Prayer by: Jerry Mallernee

Our Small Groups will meet tonight.
Ken Coleman's group will meet tonight at
the building at 5:00 p.m.

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 5:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 6:30pm — Bible Study Classes

Oct. 1, 2023

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Stop Forgiving Yourself

This is an article published this week by Jack Wilkie, who is a writer and speaker for Focus Press and was formerly engaged in local work. Some of you will remember the book "Church Reset" that we studied through last year—he is the author. I found it very thought-provoking when I read it, and thought many of you would as well. You can read more of his work on his blog at churchreset.substack.com or at the Focus Press website, where you can also listen to the podcasts and other content they create. BP

A lot of folks walk around with guilt and insecurity for things they've done in the past. In a world that tells us to love ourselves and embrace who we are, many of us immediately run into a conundrum: why should I "love myself" when I'm guilty of (fill in the blank)?

The world's response to that?

"Forgive yourself."

I hate this term. By definition, it doesn't work.

Among the definitions given by dictionary.com we find "to grant pardon for or remission of an offense; to absolve" and "to cancel an indebtedness or liability."

Do you see the problem here?

You did not offend yourself. You were not indebted to yourself. You can't clear yourself of your own wrongdoing.

If we're seeking reassurance in self-forgiveness, that reassurance will be constantly challenged by others who don't think we should be forgiven.

Consider if the woman caught in adultery (**John 8**) had tried to find her footing by "forgiving herself" rather than receiving Christ's forgiveness.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Ken Coleman will be having surgery in the near future.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Steve Ward, Oscar Cantu, Caitlin Smith, Virginia Cole, Ken Coleman, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Donna Wilson, Patricia Prater, Edna Semien, Wilson Semien, Betty Spencer, Willie Spencer, James Wilson, Jo Ella McKewen, Kelly McCain, Wayne Noonkester

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Catherine Parker, Peggy McIntosh, Lois Watts, Willo Dean Ellis

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Montepuez, Mozambique , Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Deacons, Minister meeting Monday, Oct 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, Oct. 3rd at 8:00 a.m.

Men's Prayer Breakfast Saturday, Oct. 14th at 8:00 a.m. with a workday following.

Homecoming is Sunday, Oct. 22nd.

Elders	Deacons	Minister
Ken Coleman	Zach Arthur	Bryant Perkins
Bobby Rader	Daniel Balch	
Don Taylor	Danny Balch	
Robert Ward	Walden David	
	Gus Tristan	

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Consider how **Psalm 51** would look if David "forgave himself" rather than petitioning for and then accepting God's restorative forgiveness.

Consider if Paul came before the Christians he had persecuted and only had his self-forgiveness to rely on for reassurance.

In order for our forgiveness to mean something, it has to come from the one we offended. As **Psalm 51:4** shows, the ultimate offended party in every sin is God.

And, in order for our forgiveness to be reassuring, it needs to come from a Judge with a perfect standard.

For this reason, self-forgiveness will always leave us feeling empty. It is acceptance of God's forgiveness that we should be emphasizing instead.

I once heard a preacher tell a story that illustrated this concept perfectly. He was teaching in a Christian college when a young couple in his class confessed to fornication. Some weeks later the girl came to her professor distraught over her sin. "I've prayed and prayed and prayed to ask for forgiveness," she said. "But I just don't feel any comfort over it."

"Well," he told her, "I want you to go home, and pray to ask God for forgiveness."

"That's what I've been doing!" she replied. "I just told you I've already tried that!"

"No," he corrected her. "I want you to ask for forgiveness for not believing God when He told you your sins are washed away."

There is a reassurance in that which could never be found in forgiving ourselves. Only when we look to the perfect, righteous Judge of the universe and see our names cleared can we feel at ease.

Don't forgive yourself. It's a waste of time.

If you have guilt over your head that makes you doubt your standing with God and others, look to Him. See what He requires of you, and do it. And when He says you're forgiven, believe Him.