

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
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January 02, 2022

Forgetting The Past

Are you glad you can forget painful and embarrassing events? Can you imagine awakening every day with all the hurtful memories from your past staring you in the face? Things you had hoped would go away and you would never have to look at again? Angry words spoken to you or about you? Well, thank God for the ability to forget.

Studies show that some forgetting is uncontrollable and may result from insufficient storage of information, enzyme deficiencies in the frontal lobe of the brain, failure to use or rehearse the information we have learned, or just the passage of time. Aging accounts for much of our forgetfulness.

Then there is intentional forgetting which occurs because we determine that the information no longer serves a useful purpose or may actually harm us. We selectively drop certain things from our memory system. The apostle Paul has instructed us to forget the past and stretch forward...to the goal that is before us (Philippians 3:13-14).

We need to forget certain things. Past hurts, resentments, grudges...these all need to be forgotten. If we carry resentment and anger in our hearts we endanger our souls and give Satan a "foothold" in our lives (Ephesians 4:31-32).

We need to forget our sinful past with its enticing allurements and reach forward to a more honorable and Christ-like future. Forgiveness takes our sins away forever. We may have suffered damage, but we are not destroyed. We are God's people and He is in the business of restoring broken hearts and lives.

God expects us to release the past and reach (literally, "strain") for a glorious future which is blessed by His presence in our lives. Forgiven, we now have a goal worth reaching...the "upward call of God" which is ours in Jesus.

Al Behel

Other News

Ladies: Your Monday night Zoom Bible Class will resume Monday, January 10, at 6:45 pm. Polly Cline will be leading the study entitled, "O To Be Like Thee." All ladies are invited to log in for the class. If you are not receiving emails (bulletins, etc.), please turn in your email address to Linda in the sound room.

-Happy New Year! We will bring in the New Year by spending time in our evening worship lifting our voices to God in songs of praise and devotion. Please come and join together for a wonderful time of singing.

-Online worship for those who cannot be with us in person is available at our website: greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com or on our Facebook page. We continue to receive reports of worshippers joining us from throughout the US and around the world. We are also offering a free Bible Correspondence Course. Please pray for the success of this outreach.

Food Contact For Month: Polly Cline

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson 865-924-1067

Sermon Topics: A.M.— "Keep Your Eyes On The Goal" (Al)
P.M.— Singing Praise To God As We Start The New Year

Archived sermons and Al's Blogs available at albehel.com

Our Known Sick

-**June McGowen**, is in Pigeon Forge Nursing Home. Her condition has deteriorated significantly over the past few months.

-**Linda Valentine**— battling cancer.

-**Anna Ruth Franklin**— Prayers for several health issues.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-Keep **Tracey's dad and mom, Ron and Judy Pitts**, in your prayers. Their address is: 313 Monticello Rd., Franklin, TN 37064

-**Treavor Hayes**, 7 year old grandson of Marc and Sue is receiving treatment through a port which has been installed to make his treatment easier. He has a tumor on optic nerve. Please keep him in prayer.

-**George Tolliver's sister, Mossie Simpson**, is battling COPD. She is staying with her son. Prayers still needed.

-Shannon Wade requests prayers for **Harley Tucker**, who is a 24 year old friend of their family. She just started chemo for breast cancer. She lives in MS.

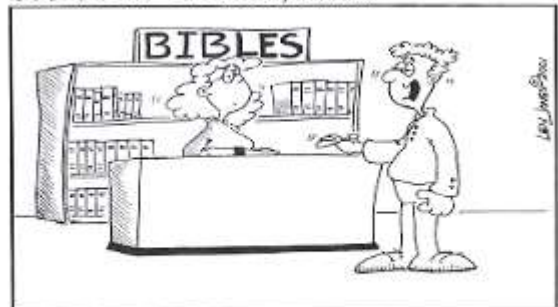
-**Priscilla Dick** has completed her chemotherapy and is doing well.

-**Bill Pierce**, father of **Carol Kizer** (wife of Nelson), has been placed in Smoky Mtn. Rehab Center in PFs. Please keep this wonderful family in prayer.

-**Tricia Hayes'** mother, Debbie Odham, has been diagnosed with leukemia with only months to live. Her father is also struggling with COPD and is in critical condition. Please keep Tricia and her family in prayer.

-We are happy to report that **David Byrd** (Herb and Sybil's son) has improved and has been able to return to Louisiana and is tentatively back at work. Also, **Joel Davenport**, their son-in-law has been downgraded from stage 4 to stage 1 kidney failure 10 months post-covid.

ALTAR EGO. by Len Jones



"What I really need is a translation that won't leave me feeling guilty, convicted, or in need of making some kind of decision."

Sunday Adult Class

A Study in Acts

Al Behel

Teen Class

Jacob Forman

Wednesday Night Class

Danny Cline—Colossians

Monday Night Ladies Study

Resumes Mon., January 10

Topic: "O To Be Like Thee"

January 10, 6:45 pm

Teacher: Polly Cline

Building Loan Balance

\$647,293.90

Additional contributions to building fund are appreciated

Times of Services

Sunday A.M.

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 PM