

The Parish VISITOR



"Be Transformed...By the renewing of your minds."- Romans 12:2 - NIV

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
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cpchollywood.org

SEPTEMBER
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your pastor writes

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all our *Parish Visitor* readers!

This morning we continue our series on the book of Ephesians. There are so many incredible truths contained in this book. I look forward to sharing them with you.

Forgiven, Eph. 1:7, originally given 061922 at CPC

Introduction: This morning we continue with our study of Eph. 1:7. Let me reread Eph. 1:7. *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,"* (Ephesians 1:7, ESV) Let's begin with a quick review.

First, "in him," can be understood as "in union with him," or "in union with

Continued next page



JOIN US AT
CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD

In addition to the in-person worship, we continue to stream the service on Zoom for those unable to attend in-person.

The invitation for joining the service can be found at the events page on our website at cpchollywood.org.

You can send in your prayer requests PRIOR to the service via email to sbaroldy@gmail.com or text at 323-202-5078.

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional, healing community; proclaiming and demonstrating the wholeness of life offered in JESUS CHRIST.



“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”
(EPHESIANS 1:7, ESV)

Jesus Christ.” Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is in us and we are in him.

And, just to make sure there is no confusion, Paul is speaking to believers here. He is speaking to those who have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. When we receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, Paul says we are now “in him.” We are “in union with Jesus Christ.”

And, because we are in a real, vital, organic union with Jesus Christ, we are where Jesus is. “In him,” we are in two places at once. We are here on earth, and we are seated with Jesus in the heavenly realms.

Second, through our union with Jesus Christ, what happened to him happened to us. So when Jesus died, we died, and when Jesus rose again, we rose again with him.

And now, here, in verse 7, we are told “in Him” we have redemption, and we have forgiveness. Last week, we talked about “we have redemption through his blood.”

We have redemption through his blood can literally be translated as “we have the ransoming through his blood.” The word “redemption” means to set loose from captivity through the payment of a ransom.

In Paul’s time, slaves and captives of war were liberated, they were set free, through the payment of a ransom, usually money. Jesus Christ ransomed us, he paid for us, through his blood. He ransomed us through his death on that Roman cross. In essence, Jesus Christ ransomed us by giving his life for our life.

So, each and every day, we have “the ransoming” through Jesus’ blood of all that has held us captive.

Forgiveness: So, first, “in Christ,” we have redemption, we have “the ransoming” through his blood. And second, as a

result of the ransoming, we have forgiveness.

Eph. 1:7 says, “In Jesus Christ, we have *“the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”* And, again, forgiveness is not just another word for redemption.

Forgiveness is about the restoration of relationship. First, Jesus Christ sets us free from captivity and, then, Jesus stays in relationship with us, and restores our relationship with the Father.

In Paul’s day, what people ransomed they owned. If they ransomed a slave, they then, owned the slave. If they ransomed a captive from war, they, then, owned that former captive.

In the same way, Jesus ransomed us. And, now, we belong to him. And, through Jesus’ sacrifice, through his dying on the Cross for our sins, “in him” our sin is forgiven. And the removal of our sins restores our relationship with the Father. And all of this is *“according to the riches of his [God’s] grace.”*

Now, biblical authors use three different words for our condition apart from the grace of God. These words are transgression, sin and iniquity.

Trespasses, or transgression, means to cross the line. If there is a “no trespassing” sign at the boundary of a property, and we ignore the sign and cross over the boundary, we have trespassed.

In the same way, if we come upon a boundary set by God’s word, and we cross it, we have trespassed. For instance, we are not to commit adultery. If we cross that boundary and commit adultery, we have trespassed. To trespass is to cross the line.

Next, to “sin” is to miss the mark. For instance, God’s word tells us to love one another. God’s word tells us to for-



give one another. That is the mark God's word sets.

So, when we don't love one another, and we don't forgive each other, we miss the mark. We are like an archer drawing an arrow and shooting at a target and missing it completely. So, to "sin" is to miss the mark set by God's word.

And last, iniquity is the broken-ness in us, it's the twistedness in us, that makes us miss the mark and cross the line. Jesus tells us in Matthew 15:19, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander" (Matthew 15:19, ESV). This describes the twistedness that is iniquity.

So, the bible speaks of trespass, sin and iniquity. All three of these break our relationship with God. All three separate us from God.

Yet, here is the good news. The good news is that, in Jesus Christ, through our union with Jesus Christ, because of Jesus Christ, we have "the forgiveness of our trespasses [and our sin and our iniquity]."

Again, Darrell Johnson has an excellent summary of this in his commentary on Ephesians. Darrell writes, "By His blood, Jesus rescues us from iniquity, releasing us from its horrible grip. By His blood, Jesus erases our sin, our missing the mark, wiping the slate clean. And by His blood, Jesus forgives our transgressions, choosing not to hold our willful disobedience against us! He takes the rap for us, and then brings us back into relationship with Him and his Father."¹ Forgiveness restores relationship.

And there is one other truth about forgiveness we need to hear and remember. When God forgives us, through Jesus Christ, God remembers our trespasses no more.

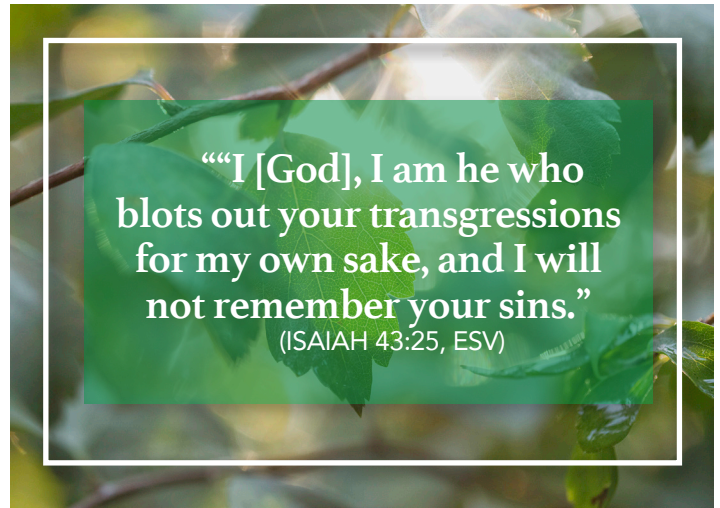
The verb form of the word used for forgiveness here means "to send away." In Christ, God sends away our trespasses, and sins, and iniquity.

This is the idea in Psalm 103:12, which says, "as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12, ESV). How far is the east from the west? It is infinite. God sends our trespasses and sins and iniquity far away, never to return.

Along the same line, Isa. 43:25 says, "'I [God], I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.'" (Isaiah 43:25, ESV) What a hopeful verse! Once forgiven, God does not remember our sins.

And, here, Eph. 1:7 says, "In Christ we have the forgiveness [the sending away] of our trespasses, [and sins and iniquity]."

I want us to nail down this wonderful truth. I want this truth to be seared in our hearts. In Jesus Christ, our trespasses, our sin, and our iniquity are sent away, never to return. In Jesus Christ, they are remembered no more. Isn't that amaz-



ingly good news?

My question to you is this. Do you remember them no more? Or are you captive to the devil's lie that you still carry the burden your sin? That you still carry the guilt and the shame of your trespasses, sin and iniquity? In him, in Jesus Christ, we have forgiveness of our trespasses, "according to the riches of his [God's] grace."

Do you realize we are all rich? In Jesus Christ, we have all the riches of God's grace. God's grace sent Jesus Christ who has released us from all captivity. God's grace sent Jesus Christ that we might have the forgiveness of our trespasses, sin and iniquity.

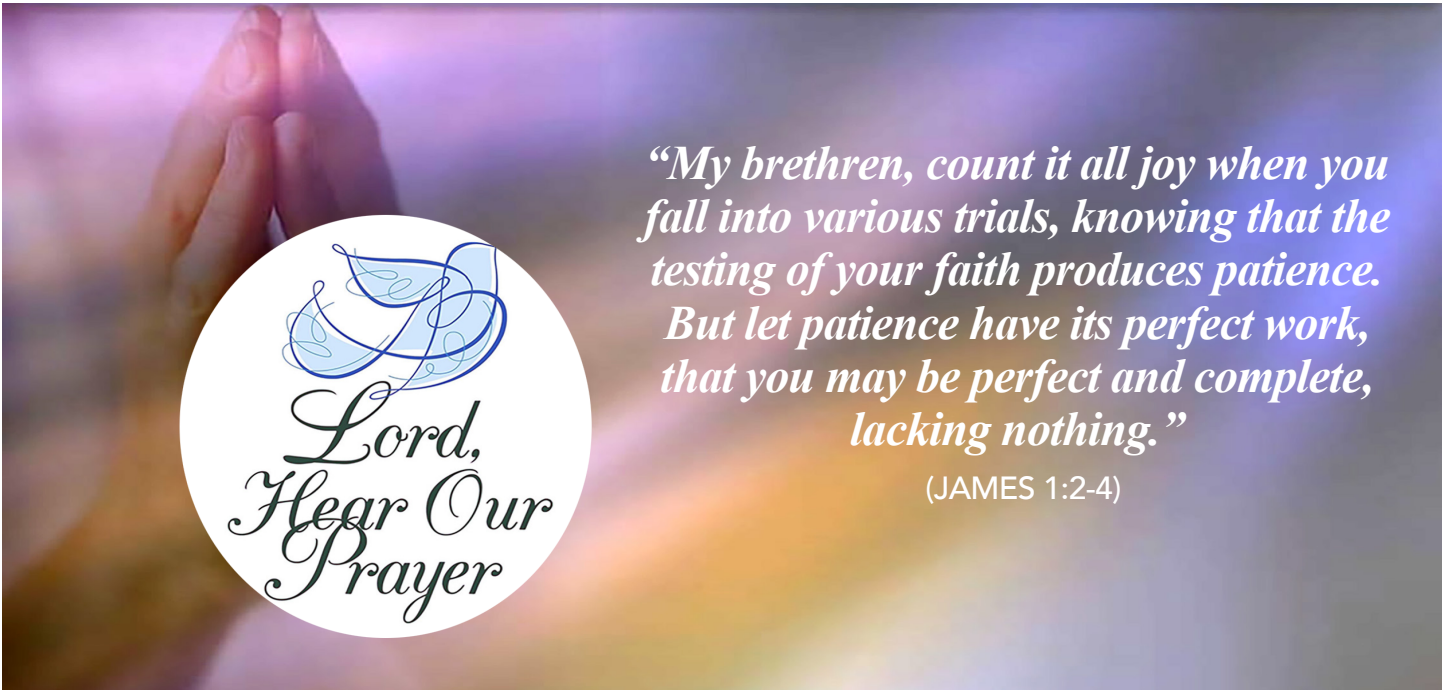
Our Father God and Jesus Christ don't want us carrying the guilt and shame of things that have been forgiven by God, that have been sent away by God, and have been forgotten by God. This is God's gift to us. This is part of the riches of God's grace we have through Jesus Christ.

This is why I say each Sunday, "walk in the freedom of your forgiveness." In Christ, we walk in freedom. If we are in Christ, we have been ransomed and forgiven. We have been released from captivity and our relationship with God has been restored. Receive the gift of God's grace. Let all guilt and shame go? Amen!

See you next month

Pastor Steve

¹Johnson, Darrell W., *Ephesians: The Wonder and Walk of Being Alive "In Christ,"* (Vancouver B.C., Canadian Church Leaders Network, 2004) p. 63



“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

(JAMES 1:2-4)

LET US PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER:

Brian Albriton has been moved to full nursing care and hospice. Denise must now adjust to being alone in their apartment.

Susan Rosal has not had a job since January. Finances are critical.

Teresa Kostov has a painful infection that could potentially keep returning.

Alice Pourrat (Pastor Steve’s granddaughter) is having a colonoscopy October 9. Medical procedures are traumatizing to a 5-year-old.

Morsan McSweeney asks that we pray for her grandchildren, Avery Tristan, Kaden, and Lillian, to have self-control. That they would take personal responsibility for their own choices and actions. For herself, to not only trust GOD for finances, strength, wisdom, rest and renewal but also for a clear personal “calling” into the future.

Alison Puzio (Young Life Hollywood Director who’s ministry we support) is taking a 3 month medical leave.

Matty Miranda, Alison’s assistant, is stepping in to cover for Alison’s absence for Young Life activities.

Joan Janecek was moved into another care facility. The dementia symptoms have become

more severe and she is refusing to walk.

Irene Mayeda’s ankle is not healing due to the heavy lifting of caring for Harumi. Irene and Harumi are having to endure the disturbance of noise and dust created by home repair such as roof replacement.

Janet Nozaki has taken a couple of falls.

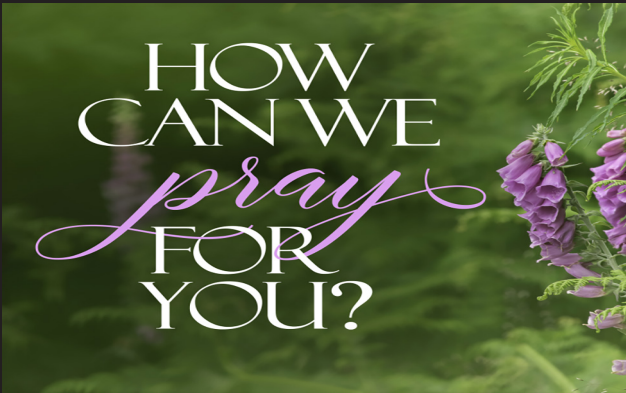
Philip Nozaki, Janet’s son is dealing with cancer.

Let us pray for all CPC saints

Ephesians 3:14-19:

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

(Simone September 2023)



If you have prayer requests, you can send them via email or text PRIOR to our service each Sunday.

My email is sbaroldy@gmail.com.

You can text me at 323-202-5078.

FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2023



	SEPT. 2023	YTD
Receipts	\$ 10,832	\$ 93,136
Disbursements	\$ 12,321	\$ 106,550
Increase (Deficit)	(\$ 1,489)	(\$ 13,414)

Gifts & Offering



We are grateful for your continued generosity in supporting our ministry.

Please consider sending a gift or donation to:

**Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
4011 Clinton Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004**

“Per a suggestion from a reader, we are looking into adding a payment link to our newsletter to make it easier to contribute.

The Lord's Prayer

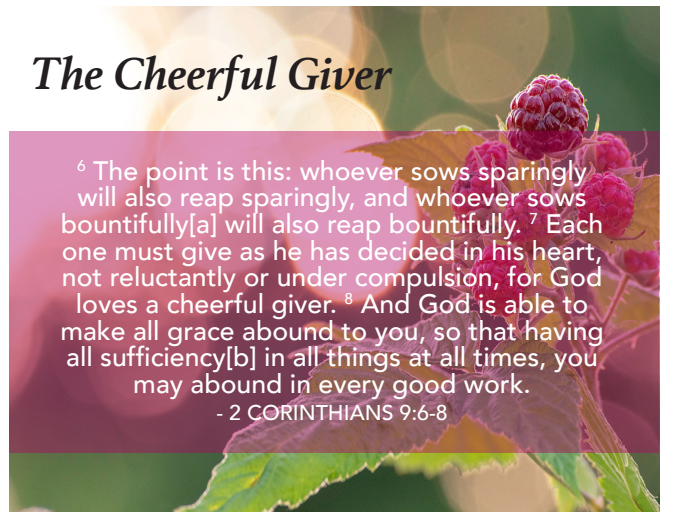
Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy Will be done,
On earth as It is In Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom and
the Power and the Glory forever.

Amen

The Cheerful Giver

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully[a] will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency[b] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8



CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD



**SUNDAYS at 11:00 A.M.
IN-PERSON OR ON ZOOM**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/384758031?pwd=ZnEySjBjL1VkUmhiTWRCREdmZVhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 384 758 031
Password: 351955
One tap mobile
+16699006833,,384758031# US (San Jose)
+13462487799,,384758031# US (Houston)

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DATED MATERIAL

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