



New Hope Newsletter

A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church

Pardons: God & Man's

By Elder Dolph Painter

In recent years, the pens of American Presidents were very busy the hours before their terms expired.

Were they signing last second bills or appointments? No. They were busy writing and signing pardons.

What is a pardon? A pardon is a legal term, it is the forgiveness of a crime, the penalty associated with it, and the purging of a person's record. That is how our presidents pardon, but is that how God pardons? We know God is merciful and forgiving, but we also know He is a God of justice. A look at how God pardons can give us insight as to how God balances these traits. Scripture uses the word pardon (in its various tenses) 18 times, all in the Old Testament. Pardons appear to be associated with The Law. Consider the following pardon types:

- Conditional pardons: this pardon was in effect as long as Israel maintained holy living. Returning to idols would have reinstated their sentence (Exodus 23:20-25). Sounds more like a probation than a pardon.

- Intercessory pardons: This pardon was granted to a stiff-necked people, for the grace found in Moses. Sounds more like mediation than a pardon.

- Generational pardons: This pardon was granted to another generation. The first generation served out their sentence (Numbers 14:15-23). Sounds more like a deferred promise than a pardon.

- Pardons of transfer: This pardon was granted, but the sentence was served by a third party (Isaiah 40:1-11). Sounds more like substitution than a pardon.

Are presidential pardons

conditional? No! Were any presidential pardons deferred for 70 years? No! Were any of the sentences in presidential pardons transferred to third parties? No! That is how man pardons.

Is eternal pardoning conditional? Yes, but on Jesus' holy living. Is eternal pardoning intercessory? Yes, Jesus mediated. Did eternal pardoning occur because the sentence was transferred to a third party? You bet! Jesus served our sentence just as He served Barabbas's sentence. That is how God pardons eternally, and that describes our God who is both merciful and just.



What a blessing it is to have such a big portion of the McSwain family worshipping with us.

Back Row: Charla & Charlie McSwain, Jason, Morgan McSwain, Miller McSwain & Frank Kearney; Front Row: Delisa McSwain with Blake Mason, Frances, Bill, & Teresa Seals.

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Worship Service
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Pastor's Letter - Elder Glenn Blanchard

Praise the Lord! We've been saying that around here a lot. On Sunday, July 23, a sister in our church wrote a \$10,000 check to be applied to our mortgage. On the 30th I made the announcement that we only owed another \$10,000 and our mortgage would be paid. One of our regular visitors wrote that check and we are now debt free.

We occupied our building February of 2006. Since then God has been so good to us that we could hardly believe it at first. We want to thank all of you that helped make this possible. We now have a modern, paid for, up-to-code Primitive Baptist meeting house here in the midst of Central Florida. Like I said, Praise the Lord!



Sister Noreen was on cloud nine worshipping with her mother, brother, nephews and her children and their families. Pictured: Diane Daniels, Noreen, David, Ray, Kyla, Levi, Bob, Rachel, Jonah, Adam and Christopher.

We always enjoy worshipping with brothers and sisters in Christ of like faith from neighboring Primitive Baptist churches. Pictured to the right: Spezzano Family, Jim, Kelly, Joshua and Timothy from Hebron PBC.





We always enjoy having frequent visitors. Bill Murray from Golden Pond Nursing Home. (left) Audrianna, Matt and Mia Bevis from Jacksonville. (right)



"Though He Be Not Far From Every One of Us"

By Elder Neil Phelan Jr.

"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring" – Acts 17:26-28

Our text is taken from Paul's sermon on Mars' hill to the idolaters at Athens. Not only were they idolaters, they were also deists. A deist is one who believes that God is up in the heaven somewhere, doing something, but has nothing to do with the earth or its inhabitants. He watches all events from a distance. But Paul declared God to be everywhere present and nowhere absent. By His majestic power and wisdom He created the whole universe. But by His tender mercies He lovingly watches over the objects of His grace. David, and countless others, have found Him to be a very present help in time of trouble because "he be not far from every one of us."

There is nothing more comforting to a child than to know that the father is near. When the darkness of the night

hovers around our cots, the father's voice will drive away every fear. This was my place of refuge when I was young and the closet monsters hunted my soul. I would slip through the darkness and find my comforts in my father's big arms. But as we grow older, we too, become fathers of little ones and our place of refuge must be a higher source. In every distress there is nothing more comforting than to know that our heavenly Father is "not far from every one of us."

It is easy for us to see Him and acknowledge His divine presence when a special token of divine favor has been handed down to us. And it is easy for us to forget all about Him in the day of prosperity, in the brightness of morning. But we must see Him as well, when our faith is tried and the closet monsters hunt our souls; when

friends can not comfort us; when we feel to be a sparrow alone upon the house top; the pelican in the wilderness; the owl in the desert. He is not far.

When Shimei cursed David, and threw stones his way, David could have said, "I deserve all of this and God has forsaken me." He could have commanded his valiant warrior to bring him the man's head. But in his affliction, David saw the hand of God and said to Abishai, and to all his servants, "let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day." (2 Samuel 16:11-12) Instead of becoming bitter, David became better. I believe it was from this very experience that David penned his 39th Psalm. One of the verses reads, "I was dumb, I opened not

"Though He Be Not Far From Every One of Us"

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my mouth; because thou didst it." (Psalm 39:9) In this psalm, David teaches us to take our afflictions without murmuring to see God's hand in them; and to ask, "What might I learn from this experience?"

What a comfort we may find in every distress when we acknowledge that our Father knows all about our circumstance. He knows, and He could have done something about it. He was present. He could have changed every event. But He allowed it to happen. Perhaps to wake a sleeping soul; to remind us of our frailty; to bring us to the place that we will call upon Him effectually and fervently. Whatever His reason may be, let us remember that He is not far from every one of us.

Consider Joseph. Hated by his brothers; sold by them into slavery; unfaithfully approached by his master's wife; and thrown into prison for his chastity. Yet, in all of his calamities we read that "God was with Joseph." Surely, He is with us today! Joseph could have become bitter toward his brothers: toward Potiphar and his wife; toward the butler in prison; toward life itself. Few of us have had a childhood with so many disappointments. But Joseph too, became a better person from it all. What was Joseph's secret? He saw God, every moment, every breath and in every place. In the pit, in the prison, and in his temptation, Joseph believed that God was not far from him.

As we view all of creation, it could be easy for us to become deists like those at Athens. As we view the teeming millions of Adam's race we might feel to be just a drop in the ocean of a long forgotten humanity; that God is up there some where and could not and does not have much to do with our personal affairs. That is just what the devil wants us to think. We have put a limitation on God. We must do as Paul preached, we must "feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us." Lord, we acknowledge thy divine presence!

It was great meeting new friends. Dave and Barbara Adams who live in nearby community, The Villages.



Sister Leta enjoyed hosting her granddaughter Sarah and family during their vacation. Pictured are Justin, Sarah, Leta, Mattie, Sawyer, Noah and baby Emma.

Ordination

Brother John Staten, son of Elder Carl Staten, is scheduled to be ordained to the full work of the ministry on October 21, 2017. The ordination is scheduled to be held at his home church, Point Remove Primitive Baptist Church, in Russellville, Arkansas. For more information you can contact Elder Carl Staten at lfpbcc@cox.net.





It was all smiles with Sister Leta and her dear friend Meredith from Illinois (left)

Also pictured, visitors: Bobby and Janet Shepherd from Leesburg. (right)



Letters

Dear Brother Glenn,

You are doing a great job down there! I would love to see you and hear you preach again!

Come our way if you ever can.

God bless,

Elder Harold Stumbaugh
Russellville, AR

Dear Brother Glenn & Church family,

I am sorry it has been so long since I helped with the newsletter.

I enjoy it so much and pray the Lord will continue to bless your sweet church!

If we ever get back down there we look forward to visiting you all again.

In Christian Love,
Sister Sandy Sills
Pearl, Mississippi

What a blessing to see young families continue to grow. Pictured Bob, Rachel and Jonah Blanchard with Rachel's sister, Tori and husband Lucas and son Grayson Karr, from New Liberty PBC in Hartsburg, Missouri.





New Hope Primitive Baptist Church
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*Help us keep costs low! Let us know before
you move. Thanks!*

Please come visit us!

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To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me

When I am gone, release me, let me go-
I have so many things to see and do,
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
Be thankful for our beautiful years.

I gave to you my love. You can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness...
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time I traveled on alone.

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a time that we must part,
So bless the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on.
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near,
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear,
All my love around you soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way
alone,
I'll greet you with a smile, and say-
"Welcome Home!"