

Forgive Us ...
As We Forgive



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Our Problem with Forgiving Others—A Warning

How often will ... I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Matthew 18:21

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Forgiveness Received and Shared

"Have patience with me and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

Matthew 18:26-27

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Matthew 18:26-27

A Life of Freedom, not Debt

"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Forgive, as the Lord has forgiven you.

Luke 23:24

Colossians 3:13

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In Death, Hope

When my sister was born, my paternal grandmother was over the moon - again. Not only had she a second granddaughter (after having three grandsons), but this one carried her name. It was a bright spot in a very sad time - my grandmother was dying of cancer and was very near the end.

Grandma was living in California, and her son, my dad, was teaching in Nebraska. There was no way he could fly out to see her one more time, so instead, there was a final phone call. Naturally, they talked about the new baby, and the two-year-old big sister, and other things... everything inconsequential, everything delaying the inevitable.....

What do you say when you know it'll be the last thing you ever speak to someone? The readings this week include two different sets of Paul's final charges to Timothy. What did Paul say? He encouraged Timothy to "Fight the good fight in the faith" and "Guard what has been entrusted to your care." He also said, "Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

My dad was raised by his parents to know Jesus and the salvation that comes through Him. They shared the hope of the resurrection, and their last words reflected this hope. At the end of the last long quiet pause, there was only one thing left to say, to share, to proclaim, to profess..... the greatest Love of all. "Mom, Christ is risen." "He is risen, indeed."

God bless you as you take every opportunity this week to share this Love, our Hope.

Bible Reading Plan:

Monday: 1 Timothy 6 **Tuesday:** 2 Timothy 1 **Wednesday:** 2 Timothy 2
Thursday: 2 Timothy 3 **Friday:** 2 Timothy 4

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