

Reformed Congregations of New Zealand in Carterton



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A warm welcome to our time of worship!

A Lovely Exemplification Of His Own Teaching

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Luke 23:34

In the Sermon on the Mount our Lord taught His disciples, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). Above all others Christ practiced what He preached. Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. He not only taught the truth but was Himself the truth incarnate. He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6). So here on the cross He perfectly exemplified His teaching of the mount. In all things He has left us an example.

Notice Christ did not personally forgive His enemies. So in Matthew 5:44 He did not exhort His disciples to forgive their enemies, but He does exhort them to "pray" for them. But are we not to forgive those who wrong us? This leads us to a point concerning which there is much need for instruction today.

Does scripture teach that under all circumstances we must always forgive? I answer emphatically, it does not. The word of God says, "If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee saying, I repent, thou shalt forgive him" (Luke 17:3,4). Here we are plainly taught that a condition must be met by the offender before we may pronounce forgiveness. The one who has wronged us must first "repent", that is, judge himself for his wrong and give evidence of his sorrow over it. But suppose the offender does not repent? Then I am not to forgive him.

But let there be no misunderstanding of our meaning here. Even though the one who has wronged me does not repent, nevertheless, I must not harbor ill-feelings against him. There must be no hatred or malice cherished in the heart.

Yet, on the other hand, I must not treat the offender as if he had done no wrong. That would be to condone the offence, and therefore I should fail to uphold the requirements of righteousness, and this the believer is ever to do. Does God ever forgive where there is no repentance? No, for scripture declares, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). One thing more. If one has injured me and repented not, while I cannot forgive him and treat him as though he had not offended, nevertheless, not only must I hold no malice in my heart against him, but I must also pray for him. Here is the value of Christ's perfect example. If we cannot forgive, we can pray for God to forgive him.

Arthur W. Pink

From Your Pastor

It is amazing how God is providing resources for training and strengthening His Kingdom work. The Biblical Counseling Course is being readied for our start in September. At present we have about 15 signed up. There will be some pamphlets with more information at the book table in the coming weeks if you are still considering whether this is something for you.

In the meantime, another avenue of opportunity of learning is provided as you can read below. I am especially interested in exploring the programs for elder and deacon training. But if you are looking for deepening your understanding of God's rich teachings, explore the link of 'transform' as described below.

Theological Education in the Service of the Church

Transform is the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary's online certificate and continuing education platform, designed to deliver faithful, accessible, Reformed theological training to learners around the world. Through self-paced video courses taught by PRTS faculty, Transform provides structured learning pathways for churches, lay leaders, elders, deacons, missionaries, and lifelong learners who desire trustworthy theological instruction but may not be able to access traditional seminary programs.

With a subscription cost of just US\$19.99 per month, Transform removes both financial and geographical barriers while remaining firmly rooted in PRTS's Biblical, confessional, experiential, and practical commitments. Whether you are a church member eager to deepen your understanding and worship, a missionary seeking solid training in the field, or an office bearer desiring to serve your congregation more faithfully, Transform offers a path forward that is both affordable and richly grounded in the historic Reformed tradition.

Programs are designed for elder and deacon training as well as ongoing theological education. Courses include a rich blend of video lectures, articles, and supplemental materials, offering training that is biblically grounded, confessionally Reformed, and shaped by a distinctly Christian worldview. Each course reflects the same commitment to Scripture and the Reformed confessions that has defined PRTS's mission since its founding.

And this is only the beginning. Transform is strategically positioned for significant growth in the months and years ahead. A dedicated office bearer training pathway is currently in development, designed to equip elders and deacons with the theological foundation and practical wisdom needed to shepherd God's people well.

Perhaps most exciting is the vision for international learning centers that will bring Transform's content directly to the local church globally. Through these centers, believers in regions with limited access to Reformed theological education will be able to engage with high-quality instruction in their own communities, extending the reach of faithful teaching to places where it is needed most.

We are deeply grateful for how the Lord has led in the development of Transform thus far, and we look forward with eager anticipation to what He will continue to do through this platform. It is our prayer that Transform will be used as an instrument in God's hands to strengthen His church across every continent, equipping His people for lives of faithful service, deeper worship, and joyful obedience to His Word.

Learn more and explore available courses at transform.prts.edu.

Prayer / Thanksgiving / Requests

- Continue to remember our suffering family and friends with ongoing concerns for health and life.

Notices

- Psalter for the children: 384:1
- This Sunday:
 - Elder led services
 - Service at the Little Haven at 11am and Sunday school at 230pm
 - Prayer time at 530pm
- Next week Sunday: fellowship after morning service

Future Dates, Lord willing

Tuesday 5 May	Catechism Class Year 11-13
Sunday 10 May	Preparatory Sunday (AM)
Thursday 14 May	Ascension Day service
Sunday 17 May	Lord's Supper Sunday
20 May, 17 June, 1 July	Leadership Course
Wednesday 24 June	Topic on Covenant Theology

Children's Corner

Who am I?

My life changed forever that day the prophet came to our house. I wasn't in when he arrived. I was out with the sheep and that took most of my time and energy. With the lions and the bears always prowling about and attacking the flock, we had to be on our watch. My father sent for me and the prophet anointed my head with oil. I wasn't just going to be a shepherd in Bethlehem. I would eventually become King of Israel.

It's good to know that the Lord has a plan, a perfect plan, for our lives and we can be sure that His plan is always the best plan for us. Ask Him to guide you as you think of school subjects and future work.

The route to the throne proved difficult. The man who was king before me became very jealous. So jealous in fact that he tried, time after time, to kill me. Watch out for jealousy. It's an awful thing and you never know what you might do as a result of it. He would go into the most awful rages and throw a javelin or send others to have me killed. I had to flee into the mountains and for a long time I was hunted there. However, the Lord looked after me and kept me safe. He was my Shepherd and what a faithful, wise Shepherd He was. Is He your Shepherd too? Have you come into His flock and under His wings?

I am probably best known for fighting a giant. He was a Philistine and an enemy, not only of my people, but also of the Lord. He mocked the Lord and that hurt me more than anything else he said or did. He had all the armour that a soldier like him would have and all I had was my sling and some stones. The Lord directed my stone, and it hit him and that was the ending of his mocking. When you face problems, even giant problems, don't try and manage them by yourself; look to the Lord for His help.

Eventually I became king and the Lord blessed the nation during these years. Sadly, I have not been a perfect king and despite the kindness of God I committed some terrible sins. I suffered as a result of it and you can read more

about that in Psalm 51. I wrote most of the psalms and as you read them you will find, not only my thoughts and feelings, but also promises about the Saviour who was to come.

My reign eventually came to an end but the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, one of my descendants, will never end. Psalm 72 has a great deal to say about that, and you should read it along with this story.

Always remember that sin brings bitter results into our lives. I thought I could do what I wanted and nothing would happen, but the Lord showed me that wasn't the case at all. As a result of my sin trouble came into my family. One of my sons turned out to be a very bad man. At one stage I had to flee from the palace to save my life. When you are tempted to do bad things remember the effect that could have on your parents. Try to honour them and don't do things that would hurt them. Absalom my son hurt me terribly with his lies and disobedience.

One great blessing I had was a good friend. Jonathan was very wise and he loved the Lord. We were able to help each other and I miss him badly. Choose your friends carefully and beware of people who will lead you into wrong things. Choose a friend like Jonathan who will help you to obey the Lord and honour the things of God.

Who am I?

1: Who was my father?

Abraham Jesse Noah Moses

2: Which prophet anointed me as king?

Elijah Isaiah Amos Samuel

3: Which of these was not a one of my wives?

Abigail Michal Rebekah Bathsheba

4: Which musical instrument did I play for Saul?

Harp Flute Dulcimer Trumpet

5: What weapon did I use to kill Goliath?

Sword Spear Bow and arrow Sling and stone

6: Who was my best friend?

Naboth Abner Jonathan Joab

7: In which city of Israel did I reign the longest?

Jericho Jerusalem Bethlehem Hebron

8: How long did I reign?

40 years 35 years 45 years 38 years

9: Which son of mine build the temple?

Absalom Solomon Amnon Adonijah

- 10: Which of the following was not a promise God made to me?
- David's son would build a house for God
 - God will not take His love away from a future son of David
 - One of David's daughters would be the first queen of Israel
 - God would be the Father of one of David's sons

