Sunday Worship Services at 9am

In-Person in the Sanctuary, Live Online (YouTube, Facebook, reedleymbc.org) On Demand after 1pm on Monday

Children's Church

Ages 3 through 1st Grade

Fellowship on the Green at 10:20am

Adult and Children's Classes at 10:40am

SCAN TO CONNECT WITH US ON OUR DIGITAL
CONNECTION FORM
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

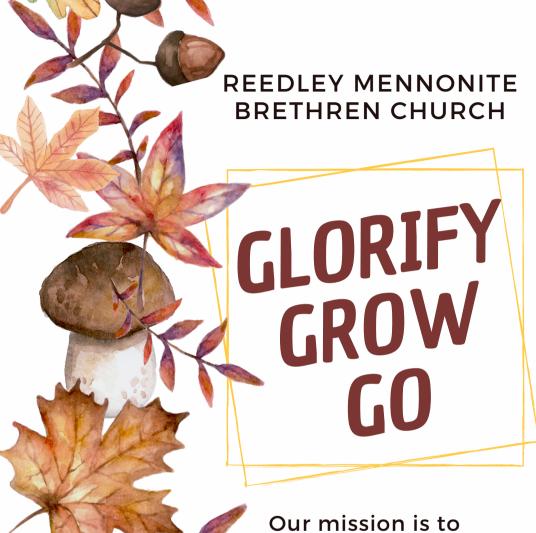


Malcolm Light, Senior Pastor
Matt Harder, Pastor of Care & Counseling
Randy Janzen, Worship Pastor
Mike Schellenberg, Pastor of Discipleship &
Outreach

Joel Kersey, Pastor of Student Ministries
Tanya Jones, Director of Childrens Ministries
Kelly Gilmore, Office Manager
Kathy Hughes, Bookkeeper
Sheila Penner, Hospitality Coordinator
Charlie Rivoire, Business Manager

malcolm@reedleymbc.org matt@reedleymbc.org randy@reedleymbc.org mike@reedleymbc.org

joel@reedleymbc.org tanya@reedleymbc.org kelly@reedleymbc.org kathy@reedleymbc.org sheila@reedleymbc.org charlie@reedleymbc.org



Our mission is to
Glorify God,
Grow together
as equipped
disciples of Jesus Christ,
& Go proclaiming
His gospel to all!

















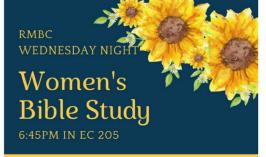












online









For more details on these or additional RMBC Ministries: check the App, Website, or contact the church office at (559) 638-8123. Further details can also be found in today's Journal.



Welcome

Welcome to Reedley MB. We're pleased to have you join us today for our worship service. It's our prayer that you will meet the living God in this place as we hear from the Word of God. We are here to **GLORIFY** God, **GROW** together as equipped disciples of Jesus Christ, and **GO** proclaiming His gospel to all. If you have questions, please ask, check our app, scan the digital QR code on the back of the Bulletin, or stop by The Welcome Center on our main lawn. Malcolm Light, Senior Pastor

Sermon Materials

Each week, Pastor Malcolm sends out sermon materials ahead of Sunday's sermon. You can find them on our App or if you'd like to receive these in your email, please contact the Church Office.

Upcoming Events

We have upcoming events! Don't miss out: check the RMBC Website, App, and online Bulletin.

Contact Details

Office: 559-638-8123 Email: kelly@reedleymbc.org Website: www.reedleymbc.org Address: 1362 L Street Reedley, CA 93654

RMBC JOURNAL

REEDLEY MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday - November 14, 2021

D0ntfear

Today, we conclude a brief series in Philemon. God's grace does many things for us. Most importantly it transforms us into people who reflect and imitate God's own actions towards us in Christ. And often, the gospel of God's grace confronts how we live our lives with others. God's grace is amazing, and one of the things that makes God's grace amazing, is how amazing it is to extend that grace to another person. Our Text will be Philemon 1:8-25. We encourage you to bring a friend with you to worship or invite a friend to join you online for worship!

If you are visiting with us today we encourage you to download our app (search: reedleymbc), visit our website (reedleymbc.org), or visit our Welcome Center where you can get more information and a gift.

Join the 5 Day Bible Reading Challenge!

This week's passages: Week 45 Day 1: Ezekial 31-33; John 11

Day 2: Ezekial 34-36; Psalm 86; John 12

Day 3: Ezekial 37-39; Psalm 87; John 13

Day 4: Ezekial 40-42; John 14

Day 5: Ezekial 43-45; Psalm 135; John 15

OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Prayer Line - Would you like to receive our daily Prayer Line? You can via email, or through our App. Please contact the Church Office.

Sunday Morning Prayer - Meets in Pastor Malcolm's office at 8:15am.

Wednesday Morning Prayer - Meets at 6:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join us as we seek the Lord for our church, our community, and our world.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Missionary of the Week: **Janelle Wood** serving with Students International in the Dominican Republic. Janelle asks for prayer for her ministry site for more opportunities to build relationships with the women and girls in the community. Personally, Janelle asks for prayer for continued health and strength as she finishes her first semester.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

24-Hour Prayer Vigil & Fasting - November 19 & 20

Don Morris, our USMB Executive Director, is calling all USMB churches to join in a day of prayer and fasting. Plan to join us for prayer at RMBC between 7 am, Friday, November 19 and 7 am Saturday, November 20. If and as you are able, we will be encouraging you to fast during those 24-hours as well. You can sign up for a one-hour slot or more through the App or on the website, or just show up. Sanctuary will be open for the entire 24 hours for prayer. The theme for our time of prayer will be standing as God's people in truth.

Multiply Celebration Dessert, Saturday, November 20 at 6:30 pm

Join us on Saturday, November 20 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall to hear reports on the ministry of Multiply around the world. We will also share in a time of blessing, encouragement, and prayer with our missionaries Saji Oommen, and Andy and Carmen Owen, as they move forward from Multiply into new areas of service and ministry.

MOMS Home Business Boutique will be held on Thursday, November 18th, from 9:30-11am and 6:30-8:30pm in the RMBC Fellowship Hall. Start your Christmas shopping early and support our home-based businesses. We will be selling homemade crafts, baked goods, home decor, jewelry, gifts, and more.

STEWARDSHIP

11/7/2021 - Attendance 539 YTD Goal \$364,981

YTD Deficit

\$78,615

GIVING @ RMBC

- Text reedleymbc to 1-888-364-4483
- reedleymbc.org > GiveRMBC App > Giving
- U S Postal Service
- Office, M-F, 8:30-5pm

OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meals Take a Break and will resume January 26, 2022. Watch for details. A heartfelt thank you to our kitchen crew and lead cooks: Jackie Balakian, Brad & Mary Fast, Arlene Gutierrez, Nora Lewis, and Lavone Sawatzky.

Missions Fundraiser - Christmas Hams \$75 each. Hormel Old Tyme Pit Ham (12 lb) Order by December 9. Pick up on December 11/12.

Part Time Custodian needed at RMBC: This employee performs a variety of general custodial and light grounds keeping work in the care and maintenance of the church campus' buildings and grounds. Under the direction of the Business Manager and Custodial Lead, the Custodian performs a variety of semi-skilled and skilled work in the maintenance of buildings, grounds, and equipment. The position requires two days per week with additional opportunities available.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

RKids will be taking a break until January 26, 2022.

Nursery is available for children birth through Age 2 in the Children's Center.

Children's Church is available for kids 3 years old - 1st grade. Children meet in the breezeway when dismissed from the service. Children's Church is located in the Children's Center in the Seashore Room.

Sunday School - Age 3 through 4th grade meet in the Children's Center; 5th & 6th grade are upstairs in the Student Center at 10:40am (please don't send them to **Sunday School until 10:35am**) Check in children prior to church service in the breezeway or after service in the lobby of the Children's Center.

Pre-Teen Winter Camp at Hartland will be February 4-6th for 4th-6th graders. Space is limited. Sign up today!

The Children's Christmas Tree will be decorated on December 5th. Pick up your ornament and supplies at the check-in table in the breezeway or the Children's Center.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Forged Bible Study: Tuesdays, 6-7am in SC 100 Cross Trainers Basketball: Wed., 7pm, Immanuel Men's Group: Thursdays at noon in the Student Center Pickleball: Thursdays at 7pm, at the RMBC Court

Contact mike@reedleymbc.org for more information on Men's Ministry

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MOMS - Leaders will gather for planning future meetings on November 11th, from 9-1am. Questions? Contact Margie at 559-974-5640.

WOW 2021 - Community Bible Study Tuesdays, 9-11am in the Fellowship Hall.

Women's Study - Wednesday nights at 6:45pm in EC 205

OTHER MINISTRY

JOY Disability Ministry - Respite event Saturday, November 20th, 9am-2pm, serving individuals affected by disability and their siblings. We want to give parents and caregivers the opportunity to take a break while volunteer "buddies" lead games, activities, and music. Lunch is provided. Look for the links: JOY Respite or JOY Respite Family Registration form on the app or website.

Bilingual Class meets Wednesday nights in EC 209 at 7pm.

College & Young Adults meet on Sunday nights from 6-9pm upstairs in the Student Center.

ROOTED STUDENT MINISTRIES

Sunday School - Junior High meets in the Student Center upstairs in SC200. Vince Balakian is teaching through the Old Testament. **High School** meets downstairs in the Student Center in SC100. The students are studying the miracles and parables of Jesus in the Gospels.

Rooted High School Winter Camp at Hume - High school students are going to Hume Winter Camp, February 25-27. Register today on the App or webpage. A \$50 deposit is required to secure registration. The total cost is \$224. Scholarships are available for those with financial need.

Rooted Large Group Meetings - All 7-12th grade students are invited to join our junior high and high school groups each week for a time of fellowship, teaching, and fun. Junior high meets from 6:30-8pm on Wednesday nights. High school meets from 6:30-8pm on Sunday nights. Both events are in the Student Center.

Mexico Mission Trip - Apply today to be considered for the team serving in Mexico April 10-18th, 2022. Applications can be found in the office or online.

Rooted Junior High Winter Camp at Hartland

Junior High Students are going to Hartland Winter Camp, February 11-13th. Sign up on the App or webpage. A \$50 deposit is required for official registration. The cost for camp this year is \$207. Scholarships are available for those with financial need.

Contact joel@reedleymbc.org for more information on Student Ministry

Philemon November 14, 2021

It can be a hard thing to do the right thing. It can be a hard thing to do the right thing because sometimes doing the right this is not very fun. Other times, it can be a hard thing to do the right thing because doing the right thing is not easy. It can be a hard thing to do the right thing because I might need to admit I'm wrong, or I must humblyask forgiveness, or work hard to restore trust in a broken relationship. Still other times, it can be a hard thing to do the right thing because doing the right thing might mean I lose face before someone, or lose friendships, or lose my job.

Being a follower of Jesus, walking with Jesus faithfully and truly in all areas of our lives often means making difficult, unpopular, uncomfortable, hard choices. Walking with Jesus often leads us into needing to do a hard thing because it is the right thing. And why is this? Because sin is so much easier. While it is often hard to do the right thing, it is easy peasy to do the sinful thing. And frankly, we are often encouraged in our world to do the sinful thing. I mean, who wants to deal with people being angry with you? Who wants to deal with having their character assassinated ... publicly?

Who wants the stress of questioned motives? Is it really any wonder why, when facedwith a hard thing in our lives, we more often than not choose what is easier because, well, it's easier. But what is easy is not always what is right.

The letter to Philemon is easy to read but hard to apply. Mainly because the letter to Philemon is about a Christian being asked to do a hard thing in the eyes of the world, but the right thing in the eyes of Jesus and His kingdom. Which means that Philemonis a letter we need to bathe ourselves in when we also are faced with hard things that demand we do the right thing. And perhaps the hardest thing we can ever do is to forgive someone who has wronged us. That is what Philemon is about, that is what God is looking to teach us through this brief letter to Philemon.

We need to jump into the world of the first century for a moment, and especially the world of slavery in the Roman Empire that the church was born into. Philemon provides valuable historical insights into the early church's relationship to the institution of slavery. Slavery, forced servitude of one human being by another, is as old as humanity itself. Sadly, slavery has always been in practice somewhere in the world since Genesis 3. Slavery was widespread in the Roman Empire (according tosome estimates, slaves constituted one third, perhaps more, of the population) and an accepted part of life. In Paul's day, slavery had virtually eclipsed free labor. Slaves could be doctors, musicians, teachers, artists, librarians, or accountants; in short, almost all jobs could be and were filled by slaves. There were numerous ways and reasons people might become slaves. People could become slaves as they were captured in war. People could become slaves because they were in debt (many in the US are slaves like this today). People could become slaves because that was the only way they could find work. We don't know how or why Onesimus became a slave, we simply know he was.

Now, slaves were not legally considered persons, but were the tools of their masters. As such, they could be bought, sold, inherited, exchanged, or seized to pay their master's debt. Their masters had virtually unlimited power over them. By the time of the NT, however, slavery was changing. Realizing that contented slaves were more productive, masters tended to treat them more leniently. It was not uncommon for a master to teach a slave his own trade, and some masters and slaves became close friends. Some slaves enjoyed very favorable and profitable service under their masters and were better off than many freemen because they were assured of care and provision. Over time, slaves could also be granted (or purchase) their freedom.

The NT nowhere directly affirms slavery. It simply is. Nor does the NT directly attack slavery; had it done so, the resulting slave insurrections would have been brutally suppressed and the message of the

gospel hopelessly confused with that of social reform. We still struggle with this today, especially when Christians see real societal evils that need to be challenged but do so as from a position of social justice, rather than from of gospel truth. This is what the letter to Philemon is asking us to grapple with. When doing a hard thing is the right thing, are we going to apply the gospel of Jesus to the situation?

The apostle Paul is writing to his friend and fellow Christian (Philemon), to encourage him to do a hard thing in Philemon's world to do, but is the right thing as a follower of Jesus. The hard thing Paul is asking his friend and fellow Christian, Philemon, to do is to forgive a slave Philemon has named Onesimus. Onesimus is a runaway slave, who in God's providence, found his way to Rome, where Paul was awaiting trial before Caesar. We don't know how, but Paul meets Onesimus, and leads this runaway slave to receive the grace of Jesus in his life. So, there are really tothings that Paul is asking of both Philemon and of Onesimus. Paul is asking Onesimus, the runaway slave, to go back to his master and ask forgiveness for running away. That is the right thing to do, but a hard thing to do as Philemon, the slave owner would have every right and expectation from the society around him to execute Onesimus on the spot. So Paul in this letter is also asking Philemon to do a hard thing which is the right thing and that is to forgive Onesimus, and not only that but to welcome Onesimus back as an equal – as a Christian brother.

We looked last week at the beginning of Philemon and Pastor Matt pointed us to the truth that community matters. Paul encourages Philemon in the opening verse of the letter, with affirmation that Philemon and Paul are fellow workers in the kingdom of Jesus; that Philemon's love and faith in Jesus have spread broadly to others, and that Paul has received direct blessing from Philemon's on-going support of Paul's work and ministry. Paul is establishing for us what the character of one who forgives lookslike. Those who forgive are those who have been transformed by the gospel of Jesus. Those who forgive are those who have recognized their own sin and their own need for forgiveness. It is out of love and devotion to Christ that they forgive, that they do good, that they seek the welfare of others as more important than themselves.

If this is the character of one who forgives, what are the actions and motives of someone who is needing to do the hard right of forgiveness? This is what the book of Philemon is about – doing right by forgiving when it is very hard to do. Before we look at the actions of forgiveness, I want to lay a quick foundation for us to understand the theology of biblical forgiveness.

The first point, in the foundation of a theology of forgiveness needs to recognize **that whoever has offended or wronged you, has offended or wronged God greater**. As Christians, we should most easily and fully recognize this truth when it comes to forgiveness because we are aware of the unfathomable debt of our own sin before God. So great is our sin, that there is no way we could ever pay that debt ourselves, we needed another not only to take the punishment of our sin from us, we needed another to first be willing to walk toward us and offer us forgiveness we did not ask for or deserve. I say this because we must always put our hurts and offenses and wrongs in their proper perspective. Any theology of forgiveness needs to start with recognizing that no human could ever offend or wrong me as badly as I and they havecontinuously wronged and offended God. (Read Ex. 34:6-7)

The second point in the theology of biblical forgiveness is **that you will not enjoy God's forgiveness if you will not forgive others**. (Read Matthew 6:12; 14) Our forgiveness of others is a demonstration and confirmation of God's forgiveness of us.

The third point in the theology of forgiveness is that **if you won't forgive but seek revenge you usurp God's authority**. When you won't forgive someone, when you carry around that attitude of anger and bitterness and hostility, you are presuming literally to take the sword of divine judgment out of God's hand and use it yourself. Such an attitude says: I must be the avenger because God is unjust, or God is

slow, or God is indifferent, or God just doesn't understand, He's ignorant, or God is unable to judge. (Read Romans 12:19)

Finally, absence of forgiveness makes you unfit for worship. (Read Matthew 5:21-26)

So, what are the actions that characterize the one who forgives. There are three we findin Philemon. First, **reception**. The first element in forgiveness is simply to open up your life and take the person back. Let them in your life. (Read Philemon 10-14) Just take him back, he says. I'm just appealing to you, take him back. And this should be done immediately because there are some things, Paul says are now true about Onesimus. He is repentant. How do we know? Because Onesimus is there, standing before his master. Onesimus did the most dangerous thing. And now Paul is asking Philemon, will you do the hard thing that is the right thing and forgive him by taking him back? Onesimus is also transformed. Onesimus left a sinner and returns a saint.

Onesimus has had an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. He's no longer the same man. He's a new creation, just as you are Philemon, and just as you are person sittinghere who also claims Christ as Lord. Forgiveness begins with reception personally.

Close the gap. Cross the rift. Heal the wound. Let your Onesimus backinto your life. And this is done in, among, and through the community of the church, among fellowbelievers.

The second action that characterizes the one who forgives is **restoration**. Paul suggests that not only should you open your arms and take your Onesimus back because he's worth loving, but you need to put him back into service. You need toput him back into function and ministry. (Read Philemon 15-16) What a statement. Paul says, "Look, I'm not going to minimize the guilt of Onesimus. What Onesimus did was wrong, but I just want you to consider that maybe God had a purpose." But don't you think, Philemon, that maybe God was using this evil to produce good? Remember Genesis 50:20? You meant it for evil but God meant it forgood. Romans 8:28, all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to His purpose. God can overturn, overrule any evil. God is always triumphing over sin by His power and grace. You lost a slave, you gained a brother. God allowed it. God overruled it. A temporary separation to lead to aneternal relationship.

What Onesimus did could have had irreparable damage in terms of the trust of Philemon. But Philemon, like us, needed to see that God was working in this. Restorationdoesn't mean that Onesimus will not continue to be Philemon's slave; this isn't an emancipation proclamation. Paul is simply trying to help Philemon see beyond the offense and wrong, to the work God is doing. Onesimus is no longer merely a slave; he's more than a slave. He comes back a beloved brother. So, take him back, to be a servant again, yes; but not just that, more than that, a brother in Christ.

The third act that characterizes one who forgives, and it is frequently the hardest to do, is **restitution**. There has been wrong done, and that wrong needs to be dealt with. How willit be dealt with? (Read Philemon 17-21) Restitution is always an essential component of forgiveness. It would have been right for Philemon to say, you'll pay me back what it cost me to replace you. I'll take it out of your wages. You will work overtime and you will restore back to me what you stole from me when you left. That would be justice, thatwould not be wrong. But neither is it wrong to be gracious.

But, just to take any pressure at all off Philemon, to be forced into a gracious act of totalforgiveness, Paul says whatever he owes you I'll pay because he has no money. Obviously, Onesimus had nothing with which to pay so Paul says, I'll pay it. There needs to be restitution. Sometimes the restitution is to pay it back if a person is able to do that. But, sometimes the best kind of restitution is just sheer forgiveness, and just the grace of God.

Church, never are we more like God than when we forgive. Never are we more like Christ than when we carry the debt so that forgiveness can take place.

Is there someone you're harboring unforgiveness towards you need to forgive? Is there someone you know you have wronged you need to ask forgiveness from? Who might your Onesimus be? Who might your Philemon be? And, my friend, maybe you are Onesimus and needing to meet Jesus for the first time. Don't delay, Jesus has made the payment you can't for your sin and offers you His amazing grace to remove your chainsand give you forgiveness for your sins.

The Hard Right of Forgiveness Philemon

Pastor Malcolm November 14, 2021

The Hard Right of Forgiveness Philemon

Pastor Malcolm November 14, 2021

Understanding Slavery in the 1st Century

- Slavery was widespread in the Roman Empire, and an accepted part of life
- Slaves could be doctors, musicians, teachers, artists, etc; slavery had eclipsed free laborers in the Roman Empire
- People became slaves in numerous ways: war, debt, simply for work
- Slaves were not legally considered persons, but tools of their masters
- By the time of the 1st century, Roman slaves could be granted freedom or purchase their freedom

Four Foundational Truths About Forgiveness

1. Whoever has offended or wronged you, has offended or wronged God
2. If you don't, you will not enjoy God's
3. If you don't forgive but seek you God's authority
4 of forgiveness makes you unfit for
Three Actions Characterizing the One Who Forgives — open up your life and take the person back
– receive the person and put them back into service
– as much as is possible, make the wrong right

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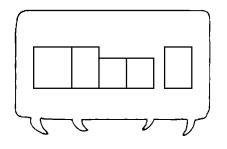
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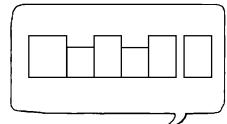
The disciples asked when these things would happen. Jesus said, "Watch for them."

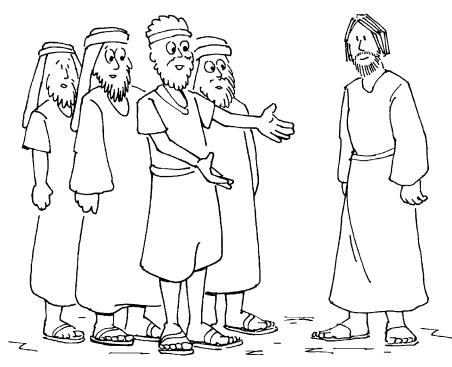
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Watch!









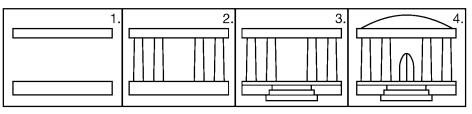
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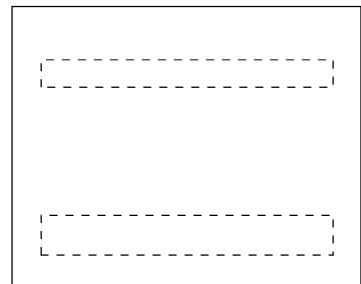
November 14, 2021 • Mark 13:1-8

The Temple's Fate and Keeping Watch

Jesus' disciples saw the large stones of the temple.

Follow the steps to draw the temple.





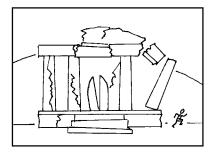


Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @ games.childrensbulletins.com

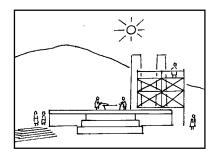


Jesus said, "Not one stone will be left upon another."

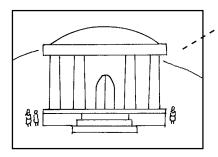
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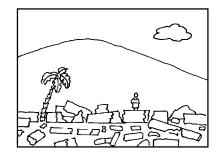














Later, Jesus sat with Peter, James, John and Andrew.

Circle the picture that shows Jesus sitting with His disciples.





