

January 30th, Passing It On
Part 5 in the series 'New Beginnings'

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Can you remember Pastor Jim's story about the paper shredder incident from the beginning of the message?

READ Philippians 1:3-8

3 I thank my God every time I remember you. **4** In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy **5** because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, **6** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Why do you think verse 6 is the favorite verse of so many Christians?

What are your thoughts on Pastor Jim's point that we are not only called to read this verse in light of ourselves but also others?

What are your thoughts on verse 8?

READ James 4:11-12

11 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. **12** There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

What does James mean by, "When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it."?

In last week's message, Pastor Jim said "God calls you and me not to focus on someone's past sins, their failure, their faults, their weaknesses, but to extend grace and mercies that are new every morning, and affirm the new creation God is working in that person."

What are your thoughts on this point?

What is mercy?

READ Matthew 6:9-15

9 “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

10

your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

11

Give us today our daily bread.

12

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’

14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15** But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Do you think verses 14-15 are harsh? Why are Jesus’ commands to forgive this extreme?

Can you remember the example of forgiveness Pastor Jim gave about the Christians in Poland and West Germany after WWII?

How does forgiving others affect us? Think of Philippians 1:6 which we read earlier.