

Melbourne Church of Christ

"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."

Something for Nothing

by Roy Borges

Life behind prison walls provides many opportunities for me to trust God and extend His love and grace to others on a daily basis. Such was the case when someone stole my battery-operated razor and a bag of coffee from my cell while I was at breakfast. It didn't take much detective work to identify the thief.

Usually when things like this happen, I turn them over to God. He is always faithful to turn these situations around for my good. But this time, a part of me wanted to give that thief what he deserved. I wanted him to know he wasn't getting something for nothing. He was going to have to pay for stealing from me.

I confronted the man and told him I wanted my razor back, but he denied taking it. I looked at him hard. I knew he was lying, and I was angry. And he knew it, too. In the midst of our stare down, I came to my senses. I did the smartest thing I knew to do—I turned and walked away.

I realized I had a choice. I could do things my way, or I could do them God's way. God's way is a way of grace, love, and mercy. Talk about getting something for nothing! God's grace, His love, and His mercy didn't cost me a thing. But they cost God everything! They cost Him the very life of His Son.

None of us deserve God's grace, love, or mercy. I sure don't. I deserve just the opposite. I deserve death. But God gave them to me just the same. That's His way. He gives us His something for our nothing. There is nothing we can do to earn it. It is a free gift to receive (Ephesians 2:8).

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Dates to Remember

- ★ Ladies meet the 4th Monday of every month @ 6 p.m. bring a finger food
- Men meet the 4th Sunday of every month for breakfast @ 8 a.m.

Sermons and bulletins available @
Melbournechurchofchrist.com

Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Evening 6:00 p.m.



**Melbourne
Church of Christ**
A Place to Belong

Elders

Danny Brightwell
291-3439

Shelby Qualls
346-5255

Deacons

David Brightwell
307-5714

Joe Cooper
291-4653

Alan Love
243-4608

Minister

Ryan Lloyd
368-7886
Melbourne CoC
Box 267
Melbourne, AR 72556

Family News

- The ladies will meet at the fellowship hall at 8:30am on Thursday, June 15th for breakfast from The Grind and discuss the recent Ladies Day.
- Congratulations to Tristan and Gracie Elms! We love you two and pray God's blessings on your new life together as one!
- There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for any men who would like to serve during the Lord's Supper.
- There will be no children's church during the sermon in June.
- * Communion is gluten-free and travel communion is available.

OPENING PRAYER David Brightwell

CLOSING PRAYER Larry Young



BRENT QUALLS

Continued....

I found the thief later and said, "I forgive you." "I didn't take your coffee," he said. I hadn't mentioned coffee was stolen. His denial was actually a confession. I smiled and said, "I forgive you." With those three words, I gave to Him what God had given me—something for nothing. God's grace. It felt so good. Peace beyond my understanding entered my spirit and every bit of anger left. Of course, I still wanted my razor and coffee back, but I had to trust that God was at work...He always is. There is always something much more valuable at stake than what I see.

The following Sunday, I was at the chapel and so was this man. After the message, when the invitation was given, he came forward and wanted to be baptized. He told me later in the dorm that my response came as a total surprise. When I said those three words, "I forgive you," he'd immediately felt shame and regret for what he had done. He then told me that something had drawn him to the chapel that Sunday morning like a magnet. When the message was shared, he knew God was knocking on the door of his heart and he received God's grace.

"My life has been such a mess," he said. "I need Jesus to take over my life, forgive me of my sin, and change me." A tear ran down his cheek, streaming over the tattooed teardrop permanently displayed on his face. I gave him a brotherly hug, and to my amazement, actually found myself thanking God for letting him steal my razor and coffee. Something for nothing—it's God's way, God's grace, and it's the best way.

Prayer List

Military: Derek Love, A.J. Talkington **Officers:** Steve & Sherry Davidson, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson

Nursing Home: Debbie Hoskinds

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|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Health: Ted Kidd | Richard Gunter | Donnie Vest | Joanna Smith |
| Joe Guiltner | Dan Clark | Wilma Cooper | Wayne Crosby |
| Tracy Thomas | Brooke Pritchard | Troy Gaston | James Nicholson |
| Bill Roland | Hayden Phillips | Donny Smith | Joanne Weston |
| Bill Wiseman | Debbie Nicholson | Helen King | Phil Haagenon |
| Mary Kosmitis | Dorothy Teague | Jim Fowler | Shirley Lewis |
| Diane Owens | Ivy Jo Slade | Jeff Young | Lynn Hicks |
| Justin Teague | Charlotte Cooper | Cecilia Broughton | Sue Campbell |
| Arlene Davidson | Chip & Regina Master | | Treva Voyles |
| Ted & Sanyia Austin | | John Ward | Nevin Hart |
| Dwain Welch | Jerry Roland | Christie Haney | Gary Fulbright |

June Birthdays

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Brett Haney 2 nd | Sheilla Wammack 2 nd | Neal Treat 2 nd |
| Cash Fowler 7 th | Lisa Cooper 7 th | Natalie Brightwell 8 th |
| Dale Parish 8 th | Jeff Young 9 th | Melba Fulbright 11 th |
| Sutton Morehead 11 th | Jeanie Yancey 14 th | Jim Cooper 14 th |
| Whitney Worlow 14 th | Kenny Moser 15 th | Wilma Cooper 16 th |
| Wyatt Fowler 16 th | Hayden Wyatt 19 th | Tom Phipps 20 th |
| Stacy Dale 23 rd | Mary Hannah Bryant 26 th | Melba Bryant 26 th |
| Abigale Gilbert 29 th | Diana Wyatt 30 th | |

June Anniversaries

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aaron & Kimberly Hoskinds 3rd | Randy & Christie Haney 4th |
| Doc & Linda Taylor 11th | Roger & Trena Humphrey 11th |
| Bryan & Cindy Phillips 12th | Alan & Anita Love 16th |
| Al & Francis Gillihan 25th | Jimmie & Melba Fulbright 27th |

Romans 2:4-6, "Do you think lightly of the riches of God's kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each person according to his deeds."