



SUMMERDALE YOUTH NEWS

JUNE 28, 2020

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"THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS"

It feels great to be free. In just a few days we will be celebrating the 4th of July, also known as Independence Day. For some of us we think about BBQ, fireworks, sparklers, lemonade, fireflies, splashing in the creek, sitting in lawn chairs or Old Glory. However, this holiday is about much more. It is about freedom. Are you glad to be free?

As followers of Christ Jesus we have experienced a different kind of freedom. We enjoy the freedom of forgiveness. It feels really good to bask in the glow of forgiveness from the Father. We love to read about how there is "No condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). It is a gift we love to receive, but it is much harder to give. What happens when the shoe is on the other foot? It hurts. When someone treats us unfairly or wrongly.... it REALLY hurts. We weep. We mourn. We experience anger, frustration, and deep emotional turmoil. The world will say, "Take vengeance. Pay them back for what they've done to you." But what did Jesus do? How would God want you to act toward that individual?

Forgiveness involves more than just an action, it is an attitude, where we abandon all animosity and hatred. Paul said, "All bitterness, anger, wrath, clamor and evil speaking should be put away" (Ephesians 4:31) in order for forgiveness to take place. In fact, Jesus brings this full circle when He taught that if we want to receive forgiveness, we have to give forgiveness (Matthew 6:12, 14-15, Luke 6:37). When we forgive others we please God. Our actions toward others will help Him decide our eternal fate. That is a lot of pressure!

When we forgive others it doesn't mean that they are not guilty. It doesn't mean that I will forget it or that the pain will fade away. It cannot erase the mistakes, the sorrow or the consequences. What it does mean is that we are allowing ourselves to be set free from the burden of that mistake. We hand it over to God.

Remember that godly love (agape) conquers all because it allows us to humanize our enemies (Matthew 5:44) and enables us to stop keeping track of the wrongs someone has committed against us (1 Corinthians 13:5). Ultimately, God wants us to see the benefits of conflict resolution (Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:15-35, Galatians 6:1-2). He knows we need reconciliation with Him, first, and then to others as well. Think about the forgiveness God has given you... then pass it on to others. In this way, you are more like God than ever before. Because God is a God of lovingkindness, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I know it hurts, but try to let God handle the pain while you handle the peace.

*You are loved,
Ray*



*After carefully weighing the COVID-19 safety concerns,
we must announce that we have decided not to send our children
or any staff to GCBC this year on the church van.*

*However, we will not discourage parents from sending their own kids
to GCBC or other summer camps. We believe that each family should
weigh the risks and make that decision. Thank you so much.*

YOUTH NEWS

**JUNIOR WEEK
JULY 5-8**

**MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL WEEK
JULY 26-31**



www.gulfcoastbiblecamp.com



*The "Sunshine Studies" online series has moved to 9 AM on Sunday mornings.
These studies revolve around the Sermon on the Mount and are directed towards our
pre-K to 5th grade. However, it is fun for the whole family! We will continue this series of
Bible lessons until Sunday morning Bible classes resume at the building at 9 AM in the
near future. Please watch the bulletin and our social media pages for that update.*

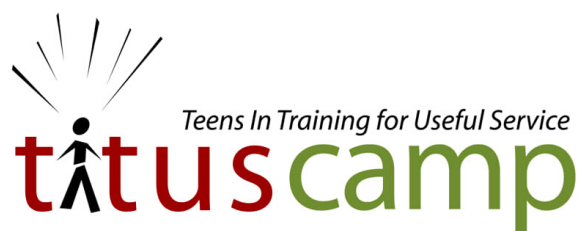
We've got questions. You've got the answers. Don't throw us shade. It's time to spill the tea.

Each week one of our teens will be asked a series of random questions.

We call it "7 Groovy Questions." You can find it on Facebook, Instagram or YouTube.

So far we have interviewed Brady Long, Sebastian Hall, and Carter Long.

Who will be next? Zane Rider! Follow us and watch on YouTube.



*TITUS Camp will be held July 12-15 in an online virtual format. There will be more than
30 teachers helping students develop leadership and communication skills. It will be absolutely
FREE! Go to www.hcu.edu or follow @TITUSCamp on social media.*

*On Sunday, June 14, we honored our two seniors: Jordan White and Sebastian Hall.
If you missed your opportunity to give them a card we are providing the address here:*

*Jordan White
9690 Watkins Drive
Fairhope, AL 36532*

*Sebastian Hall
25313 Rawls Road
Loxley, AL 36551*



*We are tentatively planning an awards presentation next Sunday morning services - July 5.
We want to encourage everyone to stick around for about 10-15 minutes as we pass out the trophies,
certificates, and other awards to our L2L kids. Also, we plan on getting started with Junior Leaders
ASAP when Sunday night services resume. We discussed in last week's ZOOM meeting that we will be
attending an L2L convention in New Orleans on August 8. Thank you to everyone who helped our young
people this year in L2L. We look forward to going to the convention in 2021.*

TENTATIVE YOUTH CALENDAR:

July 4 - Fireworks & Fellowship at Pioneer Park (7-9 PM)

July 5 - L2L Awards Presentation (after services)

July 12-15 - TITUS Camp (online)

July 24-29 - Family Retreat in Gatlinburg, TN

August 8 - L2L Convention in New Orleans, LA



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