

Difficult Words

by Sam Willcutt

The four most difficult words to say: “I have done wrong.” We generally do not like to admit that we have done wrong. One reason is pride. Pride is one of the most dangerous sins that affect humanity. It was the first one listed in God’s list of hated sins: “These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look...” (Prov. 6:16-17). Another reason is denial due to self-deception. As we have often stated tongue-in-cheek, “Denial’ is not just a river in Egypt.” The danger of deception is always prevalent (1 Cor. 6:9; 15:33; Gal. 6:7; Eph. 5:6; 2 Thess. 2:3; 1 John 3:7), but the most dangerous is self-deception. “Let no man deceive himself” (1 Cor. 3:18; cf. Gal. 6:3; James 1:22, 26; 1 John 1:8). Satan is the great deceiver (Rev. 12:9), and he has convinced many who are plagued with sin that they have not done wrong. Thus, we must be true and honest with ourselves whenever we look to the word of God as a mirror of our souls (cf. James 1:22-25).

The three most difficult words to say: “I am sorry.” Closely akin to the aforementioned words, this is the next step of digression. Even when one may be willing to admit that he has done wrong, he may not be willing to apologize for it. This is where rationalization enters. We know that we have done whatever action, but we are unwilling to say, “I am sorry.” Apologies are often difficult to express. It must come from a heart free from selfishness and pride. Those who find it difficult to apologize have developed hard hearts. Conversely,

the psalmist declared, “...a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise” (Ps. 51:17). How many times have we planted ourselves behind our pews during the invitation song and refused to walk down the aisle because we are ashamed to say, “I am sorry” whenever we know we have done wrong?

The two most difficult words to say: “Thank you.” Ingratitude is among the ugliest sins (cf. Rom. 1:21). Even from youth, we as parents teach our children to express gratitude. Nevertheless, children who never learn to say, “Thank you,” grow up into adults whose character reflects unkindness. When individuals do things for us, whenever people help us, when friends even do little things to express kindness and love, we ought always to say, “Thank you” (cf. Luke 17:11-19). How amazing it is that these two little words can signify so much!

The single most difficult word to say is, “No.” All sin comes from an unwillingness to say this single word. Whenever Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, He responded three times by quoting scripture that reiterated His expression: “No!” Whenever we face temptation, we are at a crossroads—do we give in and yield by saying, “Yes,” or do we stay resolute to what we know the Bible teaches and resoundingly say, “No.” It is so easy to give, but it is very difficult in the heat of various trials and temptations of life to say, “No.”

Let us resolve to learn how to say these difficult words. What a blessing our lives to God will be!



JESUS

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Mission Works

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Prayer List

J.D. Beggs was in the hospital last week, but is now in the Twilight Home for rehab.

Julie Dilbeck's last two treatments had to be rescheduled for this week.

Buster Hayes was in the hospital again last week. He has been released and is staying with one of his daughters in Kerens.

Our Love & Sympathy go out to Jim & Dawn Haden, Micah & Nancy, Joshua & Laura, Cameron & Amy and the entire Haden family at the passing of Jim's mother, Aline Haden. Her service was held Thursday.

Our Love & Sympathy are also extended to the family of Polly Miller. She passed away Thursday evening. Griffin-Roughton is handling her service.

Continue to Remember: Don Bowen, Mary Butler, Florence Dickey, Pat Ellis, Larry Green, Velma McDougald, Eula Parrish, Jan Ross, Mildred Wooten, Rita Compton, Sue Dosser, Doris Eaton, Meagan Gould, Gerry Harris, Howie Hawkins, Marie Mayes, Dalton McCullough, Patty McGee, Jayme Schafer.

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, and Payton Weaver

Announcements

We're Taking a Special Collection for Eric Robinson and his family. Eric is an employee of James Olsen and they lost their home and all their belongings in a fire. If you'd like to help this family, donations can be given to the office or James.

The Bible Class Materials are available in the teacher boxes in the workroom. The fall quarter begins Sept. 6.

Seniors Bible Study this Tuesday morning at 10:30 in the Family Room. Tim is teaching on the book of Ephesians. If you need a ride, contact Tim Cooke.

If You Would Like to Visit with Thelma Martin sometime (no particular times) to allow Louie & Patty Williams to get out and run errands, see Justin Williams or call the office and let us know when you'd be available.

Miranda (Williams) Senn, Justin Williams' sister, is expecting their first baby in November. She is registered at Wal-Mart and www.amazon.com.

Wylie Church of Christ invites our ladies to their Ladies' Day, Saturday, September 12 at 9:00 AM.

Granbury Street Church of Christ in Cleburne is hosting a series of gospel lessons on "The Christian World View" with guest speaker Richard Melson September 27-30.

Birthdays This Week

August 17 - Nancy Haden

August 19 - Carol Barham

August 20 - Sandra McCullough, Zoey Rios

August 21 - Keith Howard, Jan Ross

Next Week's Class

I Won't Go!
Jonah 1-4

Records for August 9, 2015

Bible Class	173
AM Worship.....	225
PM Worship.....	176
Wednesday	175
Contribution	\$8,959.64

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	Zach Drain
Opening Prayer	Greg Olsen
Communion Leader	Bryan Bearden
Communion Servers	
Bryan Bearden	Carter Bearden
Dan Gibson	Jim Haden
Joshua Haden	Nick Hoffman
Ricky Jennings	Darrell Olsen
Eric Olsen	George Schmidt
Dalton Shastid	David Shastid
Paul Stewart	
Closing Prayer	David Baumgartner
Nursery	Claire Barham & Lindsay Olsen
PM Song Leader	David Baumgartner
PM Opening Prayer	Dan Gibson
PM Closing Prayer	Carter Bearden
Wed. Song Leader	Jimmy Horn
Summer Series	Don Ivy
August Contact Elder	Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464