**Keeping it Real by Going Deeper!**

(**GBC Sunday June 14th 2020 - Ps Tony R)**

The Passage & The Message: Matthew 6: verse 12a, Jesus taught His disciples to pray saying,

**“… and forgive us our debts …” pt1.**

Getting Started:

Over a number of weeks, we have been paying attention to the way Jesus taught his disciples (followers) to pray as recorded in Mathew chapter 6: 9-11. Jesus said,

(vs 9) “Pray then like this:

 “Our Father in heaven,

 Hallowed be your name,

(vs10) Your kingdom come,

 your will be done,

 on earth as it is in heaven.

(vs11) Give us this day our daily bread,

In last Sunday’s message we looked at Jesus’ words where he teaches his followers the importance of praying:

(vs12a) **“and forgive us our debts, (sins) ”…**

In speaking these words, Jesus is drawing his disciple’s attention to at least two very important issues he wants his disciples to consider as they live life on this earth and as they develop a godly relationship with their heavenly Father, and others. These two important issues are: (1) Recognising one’s own sin; (2) Confessing their own sin on a regular - even daily basis.

Going Deeper:

Q 1. If we are to recognise our own sin, where do we find out about what sin really is? (List)

Q2. Try and give your own definition of what sin is according the scriptures.

Q3. What are some of the challenges you have personally faced when trying to recognise your own sin?

Q4. What would *you say* to anyone who claims to be a follower of Jesus (or who professes to believe in God), who believes that confessing their own sin is not something they should do regularly because they maintain that it’s:

* Not biblical!
* Doesn’t make them feel good!
* Not necessary because they cannot think of anything they have done wrong!

Q5. What value is there for *you* as a believer in God and as a follower of Jesus Christ in coming to God recognising and confessing your own sin regularly, as Jesus teaches his followers to do here in Matthew 6: 12 a? (List)

Here are some bible verses worth reflecting on that give us some very good reasons for recognising, confessing and naming our own sin regularly to our Heavenly Father. Read the following verses for the strengthening of your own faith and resolve to recognise and confess your sin daily. Notice how each of these truths aid in building a godly relationship with God, with each other and with the lost that our Father is calling to Himself.

1. It highlights God’s holy & good character (John 3:16; Micah 7:18-19).
2. It brings assurance of one’s own salvation and forgiveness (James 4:7-10; Hebrews 4:14-16).
3. It puts our own attention back on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2).
4. It explains to me why I am this way and why the world around me is this way (Romans 7:18-25).
5. It has a sanctifying effect on me, which helps me to extend more grace towards others (Eph 2:5; Titus 3:1-6; 2 Tim 4:16).
6. It moves me to tell others about Jesus and how they can be reconciled to their creator (2 Cor 5:17-21).
7. It moves me to pray for the salvation of others that they may have their sin forgiven (Romans 10:1-17; 1 Tim 1:15-2:8).

Grace and Peace to you as we ‘Keep it Real by Going Deeper’ by taking both God’s and our concerns to Him through prayer.