

## **“Opportunities of a Lifetime”**

**“For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.” (Psalm 86:5)**

### **Forgiving Enemies**

**Matthew 5:43-45 – <sup>43</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”**

**Romans 5:7-8 – <sup>7</sup>“For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

### **Forgiving Family**

**Genesis 50:15-21 – <sup>15</sup>“When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, ‘It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.’ <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, ‘Your father gave this command before he died: <sup>17</sup>‘Say to Joseph, ‘Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.’ Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.’ Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”**

## **Forgiving Yourself**

**Job 42:5-6** – <sup>5</sup> “I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; <sup>6</sup>therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

**Romans 8:1** – “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**John 8:10-11** - <sup>10</sup>“Jesus stood up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ <sup>11</sup> She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.’”

## **God???**

**Jeremiah 20:7-9** – <sup>7</sup> “O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. <sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, ‘Violence and destruction!’ For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. <sup>9</sup>If I say, ‘I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,’ there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.”

**Jeremiah 15:18-19** – <sup>18</sup>”Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? <sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD: ‘If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them.’”