

The Gathering

BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday

JANUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 14, 2023

7:30 P.M.

Join us online via www.rayofhope.org,  **LIVE**, .

REV. DR. CYNTHIA L. HALE
SENIOR PASTOR

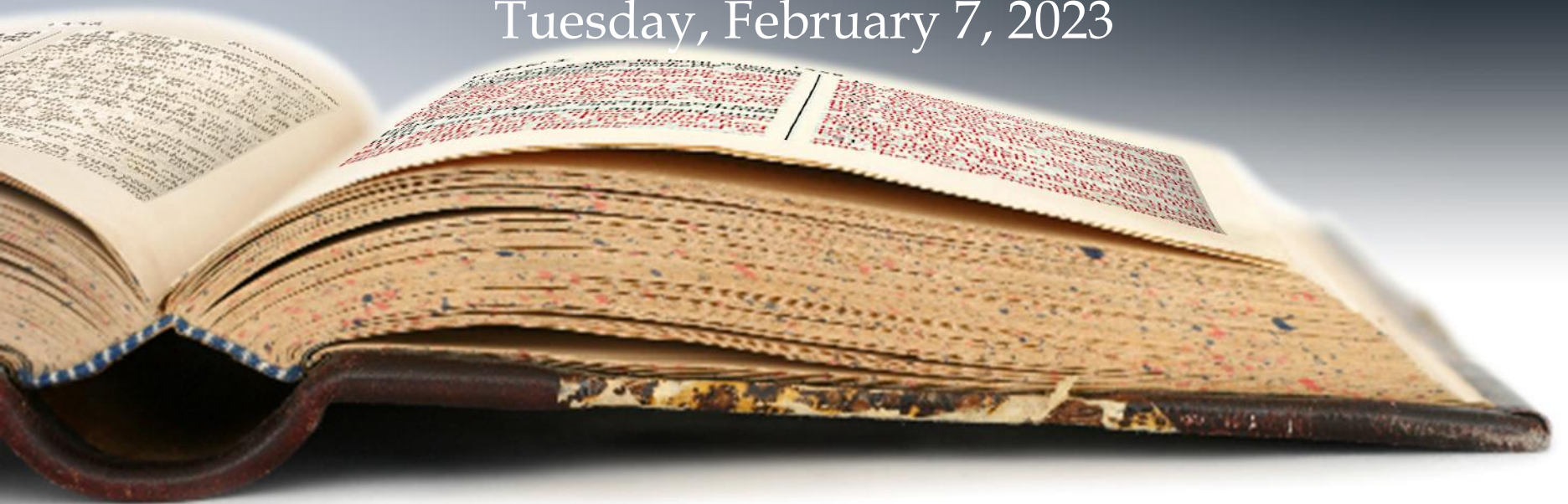


The Gathering

The Power to Choose

Choose to Forgive!

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale
Ray of Hope Christian Church
Tuesday, February 7, 2023

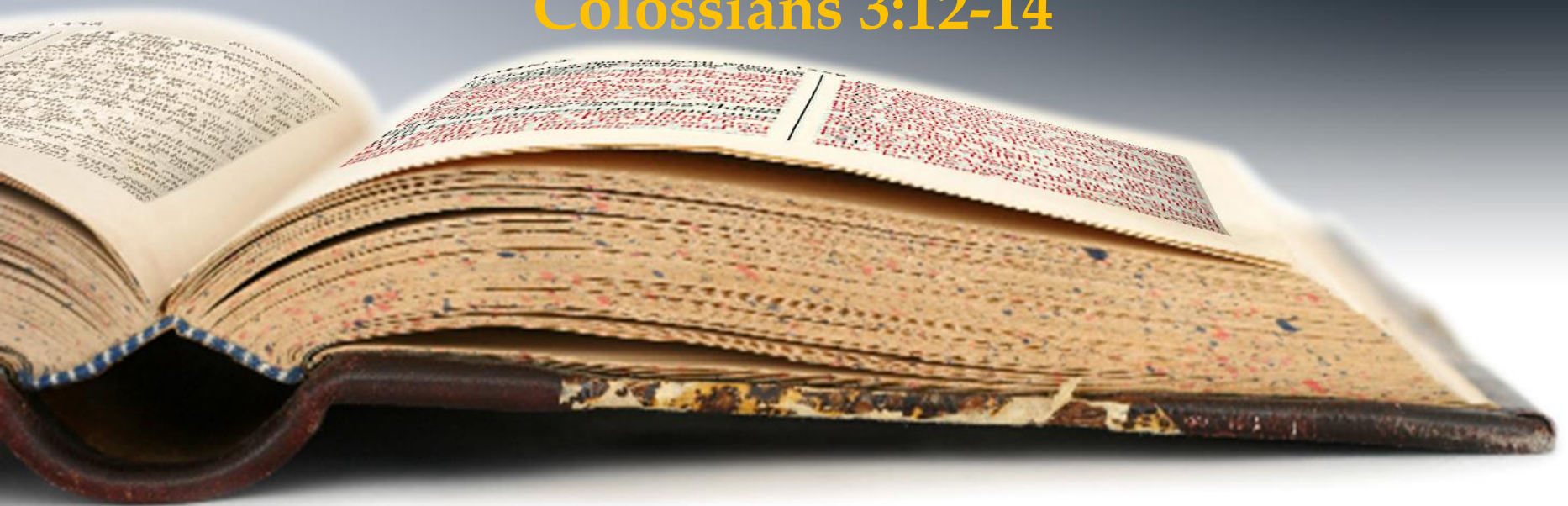


Matthew 18:23-35



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. And over all these virtues put on love which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:12-14



You think you have some pretty valid reasons for not forgiving others:

- Forgiveness is a sign of weakness.
- The other person hasn't shown any remorse.
- The hurt is too big!



You think you have some pretty valid reasons for not forgiving others:

- I can't forgive if I can't forget.
- If I forgive them, they might try to do it again. Someone needs to make them pay.
- They don't deserve to be forgiven.



Discussion:

1. Which one of these reasons best describes your unwillingness to forgive? If you have a different reason, and feel comfortable sharing it, please do.



Forgiveness isn't fair.



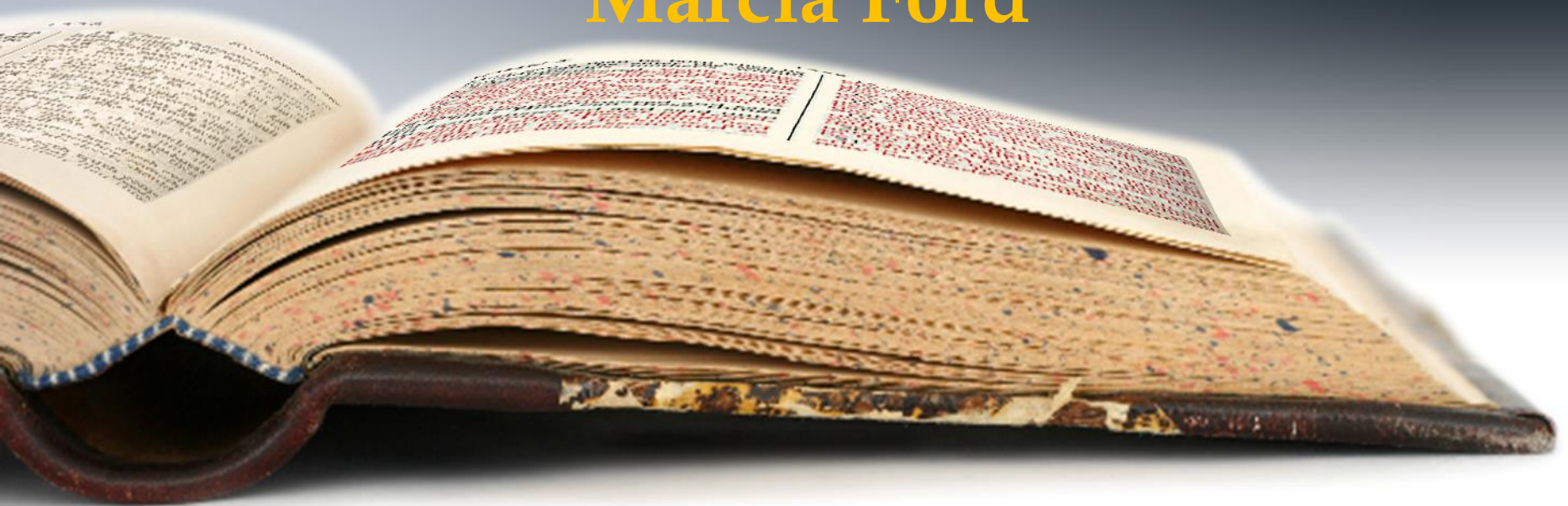
It really doesn't matter if the person who hurt you deserves to be forgiven. Forgiveness is a gift you give yourself; you have things to do, and you want to move on.

Greg Atkinson



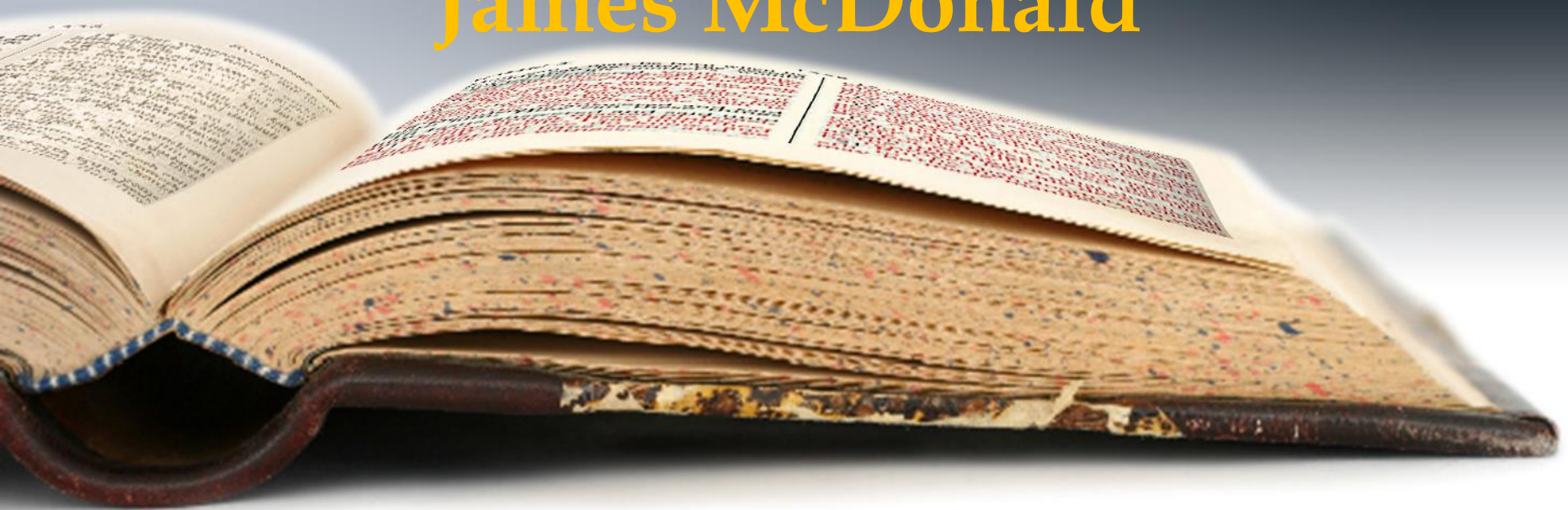
It's about letting go of your past,
changing your present and protecting
your future. It's about being healthy,
making a better life for yourself and
perhaps, making a better world.

Marcia Ford



God didn't make you with the capacity to carry around the residue of all the negatives from the past. He doesn't expect you to store it or ignore it.

James McDonald



You must choose to forgive!
Forgiveness is a choice!



Now that we are in Christ, we have been made new. We have a new identity and a new capacity.

II Corinthians 5:17



Though,
we are genuinely new;
we are not completely new.



Forgiveness is what God gives
to free us and others from the
weight of relational failures.

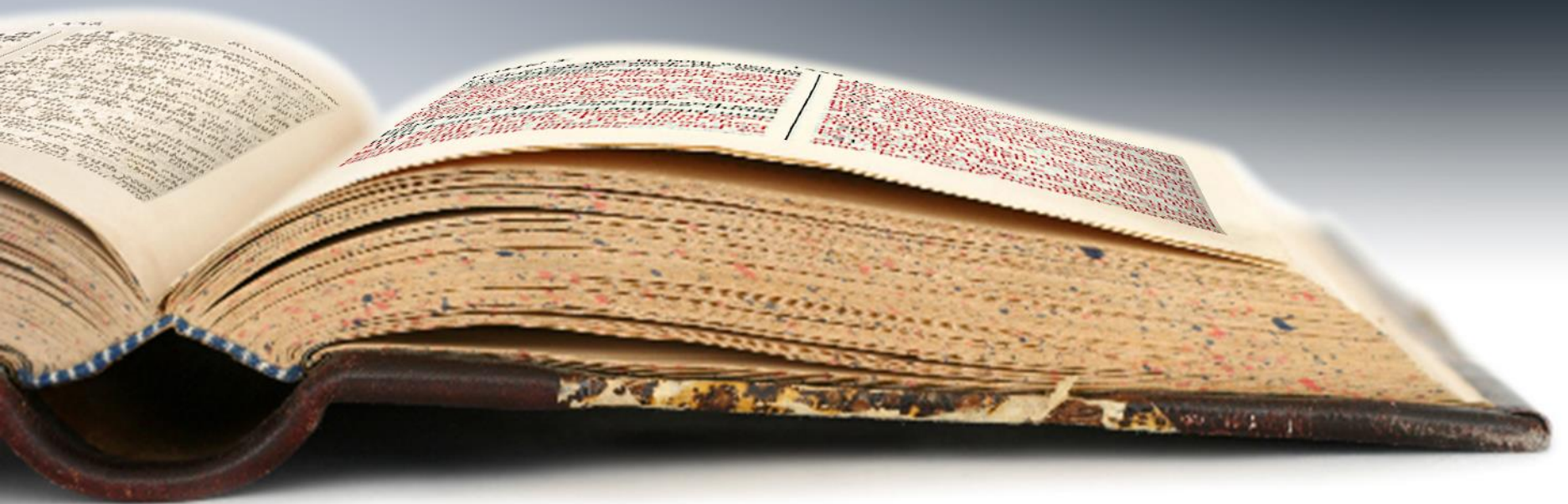
James McDonald



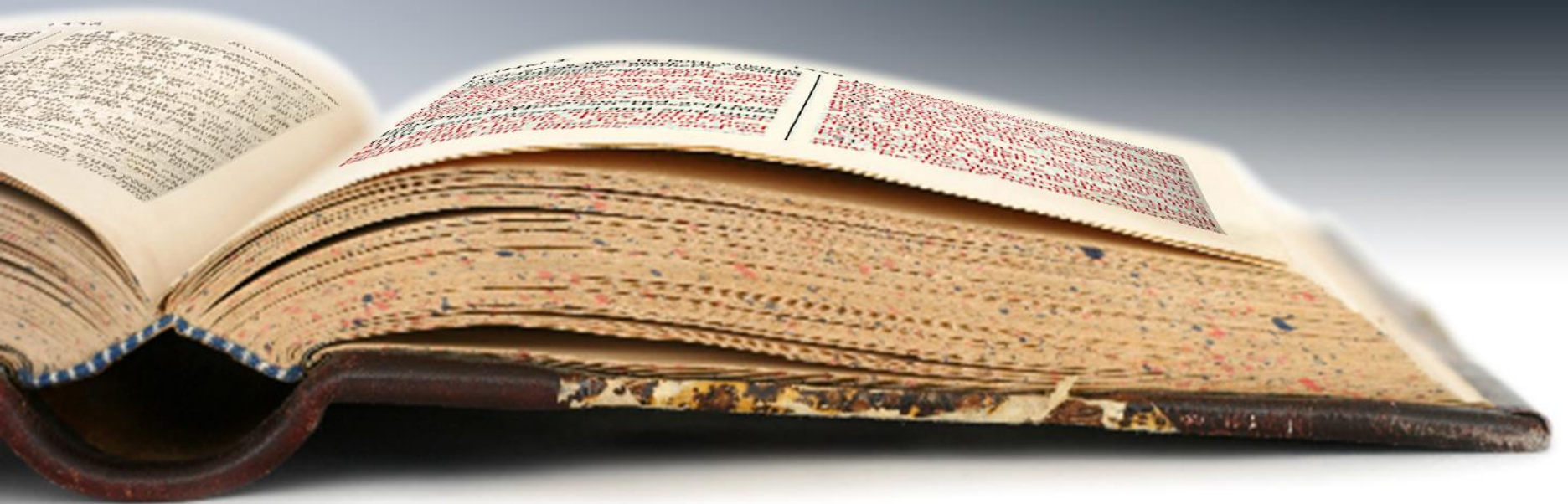
Forgive as the Lord
forgave you.



How did God forgive us?



By definition,
every Christian
is a forgiven person.



Forgiveness is a gift;
it cannot be earned.



Forgiveness
trumps justice.



Forgiveness doesn't
change our past;
our sins don't disappear.



Now that we have
this new identify in
Christ, we have to live it!



Forgiven people
are to be forgiving.



But forgiveness is
foundational to
the life of a Christian.



We didn't deserve to be forgiven. Forgiveness is an act of grace.



Forgiveness

A compound word consisting of two components translated in English, “from” and “to send.” To forgive is “to send away, dismiss, be done with, let go of, to be released from the penalty and power of.”



God is just:
He will pay back trouble to
those who trouble you.

II Thessalonians 1:6



Romans 12:17-19



It is our duty to forgive others
as we have been forgiven.



Listen Peter, not seven times,
but seventy-seven times or
as it reads in the KJV, 70x7.



Forgiveness is not a one-time
act; it is an attitude.



Matthew 18:23-35



You wicked servant, I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?



This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from the heart.



Forgiveness is foundational,
forgiveness is an act of grace,
and it is also an act of obedience.



The way to learn
to forgive is to forgive.



There comes a point
when not to forgive is sin.



Forgiveness is about forgoing
repentance from the other
person and repayment.



You can't forget
until you forgive.

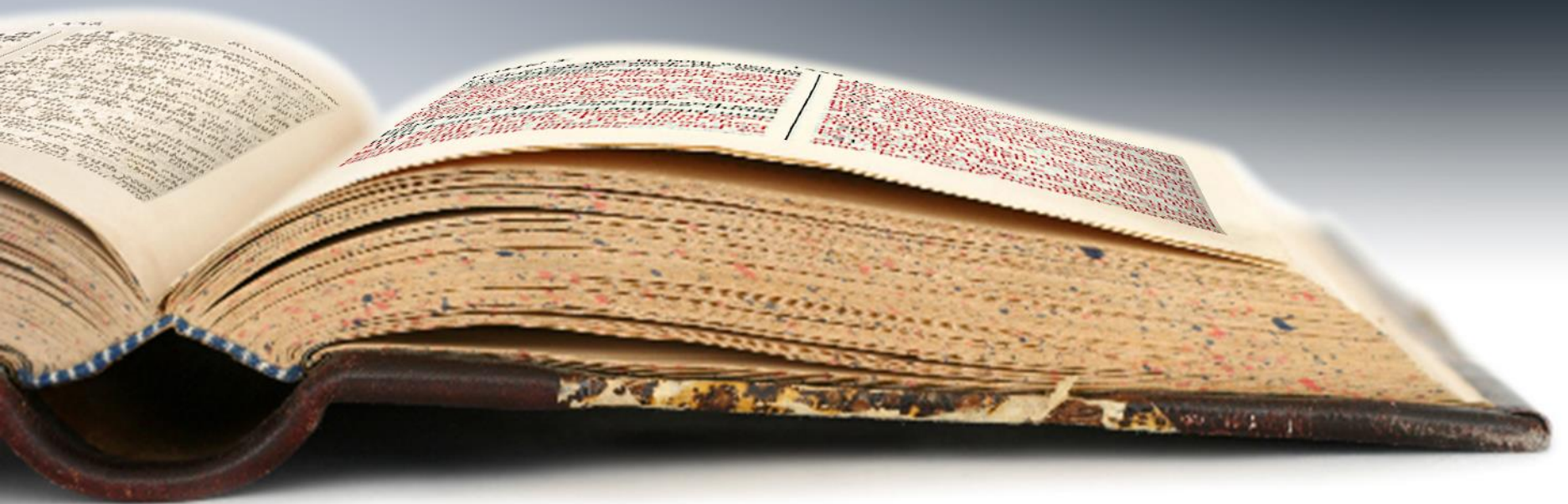


Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Forgiveness is a lifelong event.



There is a difference between
reconciliation and restoration.



Discussion:

2. Which of your relationships needs to be reconciled? Are you ready to begin the process, why or why not?
3. What will it take for you to forgive?

