

Q. 84 How is the kingdom of heaven opened and closed by the preaching of the gospel?

A. According to the command of Christ, the kingdom of heaven is opened when it is proclaimed and publicly testified to each and every believer that God has really forgiven all their sins for the sake of Christ's merits, as often as they by true faith accept the promise of the gospel. The kingdom of heaven is closed when it is proclaimed and testified to all unbelievers and hypocrites that the wrath of God and eternal condemnation rest on them as long as they do not repent. According to this testimony of the gospel, God will judge both in this life and in the life to come.[1]

[1] [Mat\\_16:19](#); [Joh\\_3:31-36](#); [Joh\\_20:21-23](#).

Q. 85 How is the kingdom of heaven closed and opened by church discipline?

A. According to the command of Christ, people who call themselves Christians but show themselves to be unchristian in doctrine or life are first repeatedly admonished in a brotherly manner. If they do not give up their errors or wickedness, they are reported to the church, that is, to the elders. If they do not heed also their admonitions, they are forbidden the use of the sacraments, and they are excluded by the elders from the Christian congregation, and by God Himself from the kingdom of Christ.[1] They are again received as members of Christ and of the church when they promise and show real amendment.[2]

[1] [Mat\\_18:15-20](#); [1Co\\_5:3-5](#); [1Co\\_5:11-13](#); [2Th\\_3:14-15](#). [2] [Luk\\_15:20-24](#); [2Co\\_2:6-11](#).



**If you have a prayer request**, please let me know before the service or write it on the note paper provided and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

**Communion Service** Next week, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

# Cottonwood Community Church

October 7, 2007

Sunday Devotion: 9:30 am  
Worship: 10:00 am

[www.cottonwoodcommunitychurch.org](http://www.cottonwoodcommunitychurch.org)

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 32:1-8

Hymn #312 Soldiers of Christ Arise

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Psalms 37:30-33

**(30) The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of judgment.**

(31) The Law of his God *is* in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. (32) The wicked watches the righteous, and seeks to kill him.

**(33) Jehovah will not leave him in his hand, nor allow *him* to be found guilty when he is judged.**

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Hymn #300 Who Is On The Lord's Side?

Mystery Box Message

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

New Testament Reading: Acts 3:1-8

Worship In Song

Congregational Prayer / Lord's Prayer

Our Father Who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever.

Amen.

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**Trap Line  
Luke 6:6-12**

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Closing Prayer

Closing Hymn # 42 God Be with You

Benediction: Romans 16:25-27

(25) Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages (26) but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - (27) to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.