

The statesman happened to notice the open gate, however, and went back to close it. Then he told his friend that this little incident reminded him of a doctor who was dying and was asked by a pastor whether there was anything he wanted to say before he slipped away. "No," the doctor replied, "except that through life I think I have always closed the gates behind me." The dying man had learned to put failures and disappointments behind him so they wouldn't rob him of his joy and peace.

As Christians, we should learn that lesson well. When we sin, we can "close the gate" to nagging guilt by confessing our sin to our merciful Lord and accepting His forgiveness (Isaiah 54:7-10; 1 John 1:9).

Or, if we have a misunderstanding with someone, rather than allowing the irritation to fester, we should go to that person and make things right (Matthew 18:15).

Let's close the gate to the failures and disappointments of the past—then move on! —Richard De Haan

*Look not back to yesterday,  
So full of failure and regret;  
Look ahead and seek God's way—  
Sins confessed you must forget. —D. De Haan*

**To enjoy the future, accept God's forgiveness for the past.**



# Central Mountains Baptist Church

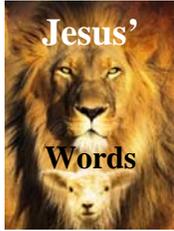
## AUGUST 4, 2019

### Close The Gate

**"With everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the Lord, your Redeemer. —Isaiah 54:8**

After a round of golf, a British statesman and his friend walked through a field in which cows were grazing. The men were so absorbed in conversation that they forgot to close the gate when they left the fenced area.





# Faces of Pride II

*(Mark 9:33) "Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?""*



The first two faces of pride, discussed in Peter's house, are described by these contrasts:

**1. Pride says, "I'm getting along \_\_\_\_\_"; humility says, "I \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and \_\_\_\_\_", Matthew 18:3**

*(Galatians 3:3) "Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?"*

*(John 15:5) "".. for without Me you can do nothing."*



*(Luke 9:48) ".. and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great."*

**2. Pride says, "They don't deserve \_\_\_\_\_"; but humility \_\_\_\_\_, Matthew 18:15-20, 21-35**

*(Luke 17:3) ""Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him."*

*(Galatians 6:1) "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."*

