

Prayer Requests and Announcements

25 December 2022

Sermon Title: God Gave To The World...

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3, 4

PRAYER REQUEST

Linda Kenney: According to Earl, Linda is still in hospital. Our prayers are very welcomed.

Roman Holmes: Roman is awaiting medical test results from a recent doctor visit.

Maci Perry: Maci is suffering with a kidney issue. She and Brennen would appreciate our prayers.

Virginia Dickerson: Has made some improvements and is thankful for our prayers.

Mary Culbreth: Mary recently died, suffering from various ailments after the passing of Eugene.

Raymond Page: Raymond has been hospitalized and moved to rehab at Pascagoula.

Frank Sentelle: Frank has experienced some improvements, but he and his family still need prayers.

Ongoing Prayers

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|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Susan Flurry | Mike Kenney | Ingelise Myrick | Naomi Waitrous |
| Maxine Robinson | Pete Hankins | Sue Watley | Frieda Wilson |
| Darlene Hannah | Ashley McGriff | Darrell McCormick | Charlotte Rashun |
| Paul Myrick | Gerardo Ranario | Dot Catchot | Heath Smith |
| Mike Inabinette | Jesse and Sharon Owens | | Earl and Linda Kenney |

A Word of Encouragement for the Week Ahead

God's Grace and Our Faith Cooperate Together – They Do Not Compete Against One Another

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD...By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house..."

(Genesis 6:8; Hebrews 11:7a)

ANNOUNCEMENTS / OTHER

- Early announcement: Men's Breakfast January 14th here at the building.
- Our Gospel meeting is scheduled for February 5-7, 2023. David Looney will be our special guest speaker. Fliers for distribution will be made available soon.
- Evening Services today will be cancelled as many may be traveling at that time.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

(Isaiah 9:6)

On Giving

(Adapted)

“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

(Romans 12:6-8, ESV)

Sometimes I feel guilty when I see other people around me that just seem to give so generously and so easily. My grandfather was one of those people – he just loved, loved, loved people. And would easily give the shirt off his back if asked – or maybe even if not asked. I so desperately want to be one of those people, even though I know I’ve got a long way to go. The above passage of Scripture helps give me some perspective, though. In the first century, Christians were taught that, for some, giving was part of a selection of miraculous spiritual gifts along with prophecy, teaching, leading and showing mercy.

As Christians, we so easily exalt some gifts over others – the non-miraculous but spiritual “gift” of preaching – we lift it up on a pedestal, don’t we? But this verse reminds us – no! God hasn’t just made a few exalted spiritual gifts. Even outside of the 1st century miraculous age God has given each of us a “gift.” His church is made up of all kinds of different members with all kinds of different abilities. And we’re all crucial, critical, and important to His ministry, His work, and His purpose here on earth. To compare the “toe” to the “eye” isn’t fair, nor is it necessary. Consider 1 Corinthians 12:14-26. The apostle, Paul explains that if you’re a toe in the Lord’s service, be the very best toe you can be. You don’t need to strive to be like an eye – that isn’t your purpose, and it isn’t your gift, and that’s okay!! But it is your responsibility to be a really great toe.

Being the person with a gift of giving seems so attainable doesn’t it? Why not ask for the gift of giving? How amazing would that be, to be a giver? And yet, don’t down-play the gift of giving just because it seems so humanly attainable. This kind of giving is empowered by God. It’s not just any type of giving, it’s generous, selfless, continuous giving. It’s jovial, cheerful, loving. It’s a beautiful gift that breathes life into every person it touches.

Application: What is your “spiritual” gift? God promises to give good gifts to his children, and He still bestows spiritual gifts on the members of his church even outside of the earlier, infantile age of the church. Has He blessed you with the gift of giving? Or would you love to be one of His faithful givers? Why not pray and ask for this gift? Take on the responsibility of giving in the local church. Watch out for those that are struggling to make ends meet, watch out for those single parents who could use a homemade, pre-made meal delivered to them, watch out for those kids that need a mentor, watch out for the leader who needs a gift of thanks in a sometimes-lonely job. Be the giver, the cheerful, generous giver, in your church community. Ask the heavenly Father to open your eyes to the gaps around you, gaps that may only be filled by you and your giving. Those people are just my favorite, aren’t they yours?!

A Note from your Preacher

I hope you enjoy this day and every day hereafter since the Lord has blessed us with the greatest gift of all – that of His own Son who has promised eternal life to all who entrust their lives to Him by faith! ~ DP