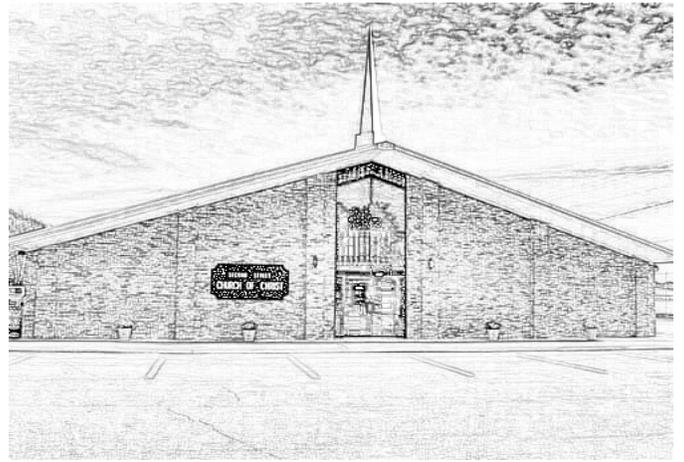


Second Street Church of Christ



December 27, 2015

How God Can Help us Receive Gifts

MINISTER

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SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Bible Class....9:00am
Sun. Morn. Worship.10:00am
Sunday Evening.....5:00pm
Wed. Evening.....7:00pm

*Endeavoring to keep
the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:3*

A child awakens on Christmas morning and attacks a mountain of gifts. When they finish, they're hip deep in paper and boxes. They examine their gifts and spend the rest of the day focused on what they didn't get.

When we're spoiled, we will never be satisfied.

A woman stands outside her burning house begging the firefighters to rescue her son. A brave fireman rushes into the blaze, staggers out, hands the woman her son and collapses in the grass. The woman kisses her boy and turns to the firefighter and says, "Where's his hat?"

The flesh is never satisfied and with it we'll develop a faulty perspective on the world. We expect to be dazzled because we feel we deserve it and we'll be insulted by a substandard gift.

God calls us to simplicity and gratitude as we feed on Scripture and develop a spiritual perspective on the world.

In Matthew 6:25-34, God says he will feed, clothe and take care of his children. Yet, God's food may be a sandwich when we want filet mignon. The car we receive may not be a Mercedes and the clothes won't have designer labels. God blesses with function not fashion.

If we'll humble ourselves, God will make us better (James 4:10). We'll see blessings where we've never seen them before. We will learn that the smile, hug and a small gift can mean more than an extravagance given solely out of duty.

He will help us receive gifts with a smile and a warm heart. The flesh will respond with resentment while the spirit offers gratitude and love. When we make the switch, we will find joy in unexpected places.

We must rid ourselves of entitlement and learn to be thankful for everything we have (Philippians 4:11). Our value is in our soul and the higher spiritual aspect of our nature. Respect the things of value instead of the baubles of the dirt.

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Announcements

Welcome Visitors!! You are our honored guest, and we are glad you came our way! We invite you back to our evening services at 5:00 and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm.

No Bear Stuffing until February.

Singing at Plainview Thursday night Dec. 31st at 8:00pm.



Being “Other” Oriented: It’s Not Just for Christmas!

A common reference people use when referring to our society today is “the ME generation.” The accusation refers to the perceived attitude of selfishness portrayed by many in modern-day America. Is this harsh judgment fair? I certainly think so!

All one must do is to engage in some minor investigation into the reasons for the countless broken relationships all around us to see the deep levels of selfishness so many have fallen into. Many people truly are willing to sacrifice absolutely NOTHING to save their marriages or families. They want everything the way THEY want it, and if it isn’t going to be, they will simply “move on” to “bigger and better,” regardless of who it hurts.

Jesus longed for people to see something better. “...whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave” (Matthew 20:27). You see, Jesus knew that “first-rate living” doesn’t come through self-gratification, but rather through service. We see a little of this at Christmas, where people long for the satisfaction of giving. If only the multitudes would realize, that the “giving feeling” doesn’t have to be seasonal, for real satisfaction can be felt ALL YEAR, if one will just be a servant!

Bulletin Digest
Kerry Williams
Valley View church of Christ
Jonesboro, AR

Be Angry, And Yet Do Not Sin

It was close to the end of the Broncos/Colts game. Denver’s Von Miller and Colt’s Dwayne Allen were in a discussion when Bronco’s Aquib Talib ran over and jabbed his fingers into Allen’s eye. This action cost the Broncos the game, Peyton Manning was cheated out of the NFL career yardage and spoiled the Broncos undefeated season.

So Aquib Talib not only performed an ugly assault, but spoiled the dreams and aims of the whole Broncos corporate body. What a selfish, angry act.

We Christians are warned - “Be angry, and yet do not sin.” Eph 4:32. We too, can spoil any good plans and hard work of the church, (corporate body) by one angry act of poking someone in the eye to satisfy our anger. The Broncos may lose millions over such an incident. We could lose a soul.

Think before your anger insists on poking someone in the eye.

Rick Laing
Highland Village church of Christ
Austin, TX

Would You Release Barabbas?

As Pontius Pilate is trying to find a way to get the Jews to agree not to kill Jesus, he offers them a choice: he can either release Jesus, who has done nothing wrong, or Barabbas, who is guilty of murder and sedition (Luke 23:13-25). The Jewish leaders cry out, not for the release of the innocent Lord, but for the vicious criminal. It is with disbelief that men often shake their heads and wonder how such a decision could have been made, even with the level of hatred that the Jewish leaders had for Jesus. But ask yourself a question: would you release Barabbas?

The automatic and incredulous answer of most people would be, "Of course not!" But consider the question from another perspective. The Jews knew who Jesus was, there was no way to deny what he had done and the effect he had on the people (John 11:47-54). The problem was that Jesus stood in the way of the power of the Jewish leaders and the direction they wanted to go. Therefore, they were willing to take the evil to remove the interference.

How many Christians make decisions that do the same thing? Consider the words found in Hebrews 10:28-29, "Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" This passage emphasizes that the individual that knows who our Lord is and has pledged to serve him, yet willfully decides to turn his back on Christ and accept a life of sin has metaphorically walked all over Christ again in his own life. Hebrews 6:6 describes it as crucifying the Son of God again. He has, in essence, done the same thing the Jews did and chosen the evil (Barabbas) instead of the righteous Lord.

When man is faced with a choice of direction, and willfully chooses evil, he has chosen Barabbas. This is not a mistake: something done out of ignorance, an accidental transgression. It is instead an intentional, premeditated decision to put the Lord's influence to death in one's life.

Unfortunately, such decisions are not as uncommon as one might think. We see Christians make them in their entertainment choices, their views on Biblical and moral topics, the priorities they allow to take precedence over the church, and so many other things. They see what God's Word says and consciously, intentionally go the other direction.

The faithful Christian cannot "look Christ in the face" and choose Barabbas. He cannot have Christ as his Lord, see what direction God would have him go, and walk the other direction. So let me ask the question again: would you release Barabbas?

Adam Cozort

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study **9:00am**
Worship **10:00am**
Evening **5:00pm**

Wednesday

Bible Study **7:00pm**

*I was glad when they said unto me, Let
us go into the house of the LORD.*

Psalms 122:1

The process for becoming a Christian is the same as it was over 2000 years ago! To become a Christian, one must:

Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17

Believe the Gospel - Heb. 11:6

Repent of Sins - Luke 13:3

Confess Christ - Rom. 10:10

Be Immersed Into Christ - Acts 2:38

Live a Faithful Life - Rev. 2:10

None of these alone will make you a Christian. These commands are from God and must be obeyed from the heart to become a Christian.

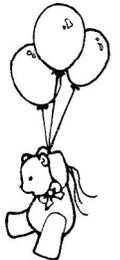
Prayer List



Paula Wanner	Matthew Horton
Norma Taylor	Joey Pierce
Craig Pierce	Buddy Saylor
Faye Metts	Billy Joe Payne
Becky Raper	Barbara Blackman
Phillip Pharr	Kristy Phillips
Cathy Alexander	Drake Ross
Faye Johnson	Gerald Nunley
Elle Sander	Barbara Livingston
Flora Wanner	John Tate
Tommy Garrard	Lou Dodson
Mary Gilley	Marilyn Pharr
Jeanie Ivy	Eddie Woods
Arnie White Dad	

December Birthdays

Flora Wanner 12/3
Faye Johnson 12/15
Steve Holcomb 12/21
Dorsa Sparks 12/25
Jan Higginbottom 12/26
Joe Horton 12/29



Sympathy

Coke Family
Petty Family