

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

November 29, 2020

On Giving the Perfect Gift

It's the week after Thanksgiving, and you know what that means - shopping for Christmas is now officially open, and at a frenzied pace. We may not be spending quite as much this year as in years past, but that only makes shopping for just the right gift that much more important. For some people, gift giving is simple. They always know just the right thing to buy, and always in just the right size and color. They just have a knack for buying gifts. Others are more like me. I struggle with what to buy, finally make a decision, and a week later find something that would have been better. So now, do I take back the first gift and buy the second, or do I just give what I already have (*I'm asking for help here!*)? I wish I knew the perfect gift to give each person on my list.

Actually, I do. I know the perfect gift, and it's something I can give to everyone, whether on my list or not. The best gift I can possibly give cannot be purchased at WalMart or ordered online. This gift is not something I have to save for, nor is it like any gift anyone else can give. It's unique, it's one of a kind, and I am the only one who can give it. That gift, of course, is me - myself!

I am the best gift I can give my wife, my children and my grandchildren. I am the best gift I can give my neighbor and co-worker. I am the best gift I can give those I know and even those I don't know, those who are poor and those who are wealthy, those who are young and those who are old. I am even the best gift I can give my Lord. I know this is true because I learned it from Him.

From Paul's words in *Galatians 2:20* we learn: "*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*" I crucify myself because He allowed Himself to be crucified. I love Him because He first loved me (1 *John 4:10, 19*). Giving ourselves to God and others is the absolute best gift we can possibly give. Nothing is a close second. Would my wife prefer a new watch more than my time, my affection, my attention? Not in a hundred lifetimes! Would my children, grandchildren, fellow Christians - anyone - prefer gifts from Target? No. And neither would God.

The Corinthians are forever remembered because "*they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with the Lord's will*" (2 *Cor. 8:5*). Nothing you can buy will ever substitute for giving yourself. It's fun to exchange wrapped presents at Christmas, but never forget that the gift that most people truly need and want, the perfect gift, is you. Give yourself wrapped in love! (*And adorned with the gospel.*)

— Joe Chesser

Someone is Listening

*Whatever you have said in the dark
will be heard in the light.*

— *Luke 12:3*

Coronavirus had shuttered services at Bertha's church, so she was live-streaming a sermon on Sunday morning.

The minister was lamenting how depersonalized life had become. He said, "A person doesn't even need to go to a store anymore; she can just say, 'Alexa, order toilet paper.'" Bertha heard the voice from her Amazon Echo speaker across the room say, "Okay, I've added it to your cart."

Alexa, Siri—and gadgets we don't even know about—are listening. Add to that email, texting, and the proliferation of social media sites, and there are a lot of ears and eyes picking up what you say.

Before diving into back-fence gossip—either face-to-face or digitally—mentally monitor what you're about to say before you say it because once you say it, you can't unsay it.

*Nothing travels faster than light,
with the possible exception of gossip.*

— Joe Barnett

Wisdom :

“No Spiritual Discipline is more important than the intake of God's Word. Nothing can substitute for it. There simply is no healthy Christian life apart from a diet of the milk and meat of Scripture.”

— Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*

Cup or Bucket ?

LORD,

I crawled across the barrenness to You with my empty cup. Uncertain in asking any small drop of refreshment. If only I'd known You better I'd have come running with a bucket.

— Nancy Spiegelberg

Birthday : Gloria Brunk December 4
Tim Bowyer December 4

Reading : Luke 11: 1-13

NEXT WEEK : (December 6, 2020)

Song Leader : Delmar

Scripture Reader : Larry

Table & Announcements : Tim

When you make an announcement from your pew, please speak loudly so the one making the announcements can hear & repeat it.

Prayer List :

Susan Bowyer : Susan remain in Good Shepherd Hospital here in Shelbyville where through this whole process Tim has not been allowed to visit her. She does seem to be improving.

Beth Niehls : As she is on the home stretch we are all joining the Niehls family in praying that Miss Beth will have no difficulties in her pregnancy and that she will deliver a healthy baby without complications.

Bob Stevens : Bob had a polyp the size of an egg removed from his sinus cavity. The bleeding is no longer and issue.

Ron Julius : Ron was exposed to Wuhan so he is quarantined

Doris Bartanen : Doris remains in Shelbyville Rehabilitation & Health where she continues to receive medication for a severe infection and rehabilitation to enable her to walk.

Mike Nichols : Mike's foot is starting to slowly improve. It was good to see him back in services.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Marge, Mary, Doris, Delores, Betty, Pete & Hazel, Wayne

Others with ongoing issues :

Doris Faulkner : Rm. 603 in Alzheimer's unit at the Manor and has now been diagnosed with the Wuhan Virus, but Patty says she has a mild case of the virus.

Madonna Nichols : Madonna continues to receive chemo every other week to treat her liver cancer.

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Kathy Minser : The sister of the Reynolds is not in great shape. She has good and bad days and is on hospice care.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing painful back issues.

Jerry Rankin : Jerry has multiple serious ongoing issues.

Debbie Adams : Lengthy recovery from severe car accident

Susan Bales : Rosanne's mother is growing progressively weaker. Even a few steps are difficult and her mind is slipping

Tim Gaddis : The son of Deloris remain frustrated that he must be in the Prairie Rose Rehabilitation Center in Pana w/o visitors

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Ya'll Come !

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

