



*Chalmette
Church of Christ*

March 7, 2010

“Resolutions of Faithfulness #4 Faithful in Giving”

It pays to follow Jesus we are reminded in an old hymn. Surely no sensible child of God, who has enjoyed the marvelous spiritual blessings in Christ, would reason otherwise. Through Jesus alone we approach the Father (John 14:6). Following Christ leads to a home in Heaven. Yet is there a cost in following Jesus? The Lord Himself stated clearly there is a cost in following Him. “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?...So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:28,33). Jesus has given His all for us, we must be willing to give all to the Master. This is where Christianity becomes repugnant to many. Selfish people always ask, “what’s in it for me?” However, true followers of Christ understand the Lord’s directive to be givers not takers. He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). A mother was making pancakes for breakfast one Saturday morning, when her two boys, realizing what she was doing, both ran into the kitchen and cried out, ‘I want the first one.’ This good mother admonished her boys that if they were like Jesus, one would say to the other, ‘you take the first one.’ The older brother then said to the younger, ‘you be Jesus.’ Many Christians can be just like that older brother. Are you a giver or a taker? If you are a giver, you are exemplifying Christianity in your life. However, if you are a taker, you need to resolve to be a giver. How can

we give to the Lord?

We can give of our **time**. Often it is said, those of us alive on earth are on time’s side of eternity. Paul admonished we are to make the most of that time. “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:16). The average person only has about seventy years to live upon the earth (Psm. 90:10). Therefore, let us not waste these few short years with too much attention on mundane matters, but give of our time to the Lord. He has in His wisdom given us twenty-four hours in every day. If we are wise we can use this time effectively to eat, work, rest, spend time with family, and still be busy on behalf of the kingdom of Christ. Such individuals who make wise use of time and organize their schedules properly will find they have an abundance of energy and more time available than perhaps previously realized.

We can give of our **talents**. Though the talent mentioned in Jesus’ parable had to do with something of monetary value (Mat. 25:14ff), the principle is the same. Find out what you do well and give your best. With regard to the Lord’s service, each one of us should follow Solomon’s admonition, “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might...” (Eccl. 9:10). Make sure that this is the year that you seriously consider what you can do effectively in the Lord’s service. If you need help or encouragement in a particular area, seek out such. In the kingdom of God there is always something we can do

and each one of us is uniquely qualified to fulfill a particular role.

We can give of our **treasury**. It is a tough time economically, but the fact remains we cannot out give God. Jesus said, "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38). Our Lord seeks those who are willing to give of their financial resources. We are not under the law that commanded tithing, we are under the law of Christ which teaches us to purpose in our hearts and to give liberally and cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7). Anything other than free will offerings given unto the Lord is unauthorized by Him (cf. 1 Cor. 16:1,2). If we have not been giving as we have prospered, let us repent and resolve in our hearts to do so.

By: Barry Grider

Five Portraits of Grace

It is very important to mark our Bibles since we live very busy lives so that whenever we have the golden opportunity to evangelize to someone we may be able to point them to some scriptures that can benefit both them and ourselves.

The word "grace" (*charis*) is used frequently in the Bible in various manners. This author would like for us to focus on five different portraits of grace that would help us to see it in a new light than we have previously before in our studies. The first portrait of grace that can be gazed upon is 1 Peter 3:7. In this context, we understand that the husbands are commanded to do the best they can in keeping constant, open, and intimate communication with their wives. They are to share that type of communication with them on a deeper level. They are to show kindness, courtesy, and respect towards them. They should listen to the insecurities and fears they hold. If the husband will "dwell" in understanding with her, the relationship will be the type of relationship that will be firm and strong. God will not cut off a husband's prayer if

his relationship with his wife is seasoned with spirituality. They both share the same inheritance and hope that God has bestowed freely upon them. Circle "grace" in the "grace of life" and underline "dwell" and "giving honor" and then put it in the margin: *a stronger, spiritual marriage*.

The second portrait of grace that can be gazed upon is 1 Peter 5:5 along with James 4:6. God is proud of His children who realize the necessity and dependence upon Him fully. Spiritual children realize they cannot live self-sufficiently on their own. The grace of God can motivate them to live a life that the cross that they bear will one day be put down and glory will await them. Circle "clothed with humility" in 1 Peter 5:5 and draw the line to the word "grace" and circle it. Then place in the margin: *humility allows grace to keep working in one's life*.

The third portrait of grace that can be gazed upon is Romans 5:21. This type of grace is shown throughout the Bible frequently because all of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). We are all in need of salvation! God has allowed that access to salvation appear through the death of His Son for all mankind if man will render faith and obedience to the gospel message (Titus 2:11-14). In Romans 5:21, circle "grace" and then place in the margin: *God's reign occurs through faith and obedience that will give access to His grace (cf. Rom. 5:1,2)*.

The fourth portrait of grace that can be gazed upon is Ephesians 4:29. It is when we produce sayings that build up rather than tear down that we are able to produce a spiritual springboard from the words that proceed from our mouths. Circle "grace" and place in the margin: *edification imparts grace*.

The fifth portrait of grace that can be gazed upon is Hebrews 4:16. We as Christians are weak and need constant help from heaven. We need the Lord to help guide us through our lives. He is ever willing to impart His favor toward those who are walking in the light. Circle "grace" and write in the margin: *Grace continues about when we will depend upon God*. Some of these portraits this author prays we will gaze upon because it will help motivate us to become more conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ.

By: Shane Fisher

Kid's Korner

See if you can answer the following questions:

Answers from last week:

1. Twelve
2. He promised to give Salome, Herodias' daughter anything she desired and she wanted John the Baptist beheaded
3. Works
4. Demons
5. Judgment Day

New Testament Novice

1. Jesus said his kingdom was like this kind of seed; very small at the beginning but grows into a huge plant indeed.
2. It's the greatest commandment Jesus said, if heaven is our goal; we must obey it with all our hearts, or we'll lose our precious soul.
3. The dilemma of this prophet was the sign Jesus gave to tell how He would arise after three days in the grave.
4. Innocent and sinless before God they truly be; the kingdom of heaven is composed of such as these.
5. As Jesus was baptized I descended from above, proving His Deity in the form of a dove.

Tune in next week to see if you got all the answers correct!

Helping Those In Need

Continue bringing your canned food items. We help a lot of families on a daily basis.



Cleaning Schedule

March- Need a volunteer

***There are several slots still available to help with keeping the building clean & to prepare the Lord's Supper. Thank you for all of your help!*

Upcoming Events

March 14- Ladies Class
March 21- Singing and Fellowship Meal
March 28- Ladies Class

March Birthdays

Marlene Vasquez—13th
Ashleigh Towle—14th
Anthony Smith—22nd
Cameron Ritter—26th



Prayer List



**Mary Jo Lance
Joe Riley
Alice Riley
Sherry Towle
Betty Grisham
Burnell Rogers
Margo
Lisa Lance
Patricia Rodney
Donny Vick
Judy Hennessee
Jessica Lance
Mark Lance**

***All of our brethren scattered
across the United States**

**Chalmette Church of Christ
200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-279-9438**

**Services of The Church
Sunday**

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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