

Ungrateful for the Gift

By Doug Dingley

Tomorrow morning will soon be upon us. Countless children (of all ages) will awaken with excitement and make their way to the tree to finally open the many gifts left there under for them. Anxious parents and others who have patiently planned, purposed, purchased, put together, poured themselves into, and then packaged and placed so many precious expressions of their love and caring beneath the tree, will also be anxiously awaiting the excited expressions of loving gratitude on the surprised faces of those they have so sought to please... Are you excited about what you have received?

However, in some cases, a cold, harsh, human reality will soon set in, as so many of those gifts of love – systematically planned and sacrificially purchased with only the best of intentions – will be unceremoniously cast aside, thoughtlessly tossed away, or rapidly returned to the store – totally unwanted, unloved, and unappreciated.

It is one thing to do that with those earthly items that are destined to perish with time (even though sometimes deeply hurting the loving giver in the process). It is quite another thing to do that with the greatest and most infinitely priceless and powerful gift you can ever receive in the entire universe though – hurting and rejecting almighty God and His great love more than you can possibly humanly imagine in the process.

From the Scriptures we understand that God, in His great and eternal love, mercy, and purpose, had a divine plan in place before time began, to give you the *greatest of all gifts* – eternal life, *IN* Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 3:8-12; 1 Jn. 5:11-13, 20). Hence, God carefully wrapped His incredible gift in human flesh (Jn 1:14; Heb. 2:14-17), and gladly allowed His greatest of all gifts, to be placed upon – instead of *under* – a tree... just for you (Isa. 53:4-10; Acts 2:22-24; Gal. 3:13-14). This great gift of God's love even comes with a perfect, priceless, and divinely-inspired instruction book on how to get the absolute best out of life (Psa. 19:7-11)!

However, one difference is that while today's electronic gifts need to be recharged regularly if they are going to work correctly, when we receive God's gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus, it is WE who must be regularly recharged by being plugged into both the Bible and the Lord's church on a daily basis – lest we run out of power and die as well.

So, what are you doing with God's great and priceless gift to you? Have you received it (Rom. 6:1-5)? Have you exchanged it (1 Jn. 2:15-17)? How often do you open the instruction book and study it (Jn. 6:68; Acts 17:11)?

For as many as receive Him... can become children of God (Jn. 1:12)!

Things you should know about...

We are sending donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. If you'd like to contribute, mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason. The next donation will be sent after the end of December.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Rena Morgan 12/24

Rhonda Gaynor 1/15

Gage Thompson 1/17

Lois Ferris 1/12

Macy Bang 1/17

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Happy Anniversary!

Duane & Carol Kemp 12/24

Owen & Linda Whittington 12/30

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No Sunday evening services today

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Ladies Bible Study - The Crown
Wednesday, January 10^h @ 7pm

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Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	December 24, 2023 AM	December 24, 2023 PM	December 31, 2023 AM
Greeter	Tom Muter	N O	Jason Bang
Announcements	Duane Kemp	S	John McGiffin
Song Leading	Jason Bang	E	John McGiffin
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Tim Bang	R	Jason Bang
Lord's Supper Comments	Jerry Thompson	V	Duane Kemp
Scripture Reading	Rick Ferris	I	Tom Muter
Sermon	John McGiffin	C	Jerry Thompson
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Seth Arrell	E	Tim Bang

This week's Bible Verse

“And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” Acts 5:42



Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders
- *Bible Studies currently being held
- *Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement & health concerns/upcoming dr appts
- *Rena Morgan - encouragement & health
- *Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- *Larry Bey - dealing with Parkinson's
- *Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - dementia and health issues
- *Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
- *Terry McGiffin (John McGiffin's dad) - health & comfort, currently in care facility
- *Doreen McGiffin (John McGiffin's mom) - has COVID
- *Luanne Listner (wife of Tim Bang's friend, Jim) - health
- *Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson's dad) - health - prostate cancer
- *Lynn Thompson - health
- *Karen Oyler (Stephanie Bang's friend) - chemo treatments, health & energy
- *Josh Bang (Jason Bang's cousin) - stress related health issues and caring for wife/family
- *Tony Hembrook (Stephanie Bang's bro-in-law) - recovering from surgery on tendons in his foot
- *Pamela Illinick - Stage 4 Kidney failure
- *Tom Cruze (Phyllis Caldwell's nephew) - health issues
- *Brendan Fenton (Michelle Buckingham's nephew) - recovering from surgery
- *Aubri Haguewood (Bang's granddaughter) - having dizzy spells & headaches, has upcoming tests & dr appts
- *Viola Schultz - home sick
- *Laura McGiffin - health
- *Vanessa Collette (Amie Allen's friend) - looking for housing, going through a custody battle

How can we be praying for YOU?

Please call or email John (jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you have for the congregation.



Attendance and Contribution Record

Sunday, December 17		Wednesday, December 20	
Bible Classes	32	Bible Classes	22
AM Attendance	34		
PM Attendance	34	Contribution	\$1,197.00



GREENVILLE CHURCH of CHRIST
CHRIST CENTERED. BIBLE BASED. FAMILY ORIENTED.

December 24, 2023

Worship Times:

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd

Greenville, OH 45331

www.greenvillecoc.org

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.