

The Source of All Gifts

Here is a daily challenge to consider. *As if we don't have enough challenges in a day*, you say to yourself. But this is one of the biggest challenges of all, because it goes against the grain of everything our sinful nature encourages us to do.

Every day we need to recall that everything good that we are and have is a pure gift from God. Yes, our diligence and hard work are responsible, on a secondary level, for getting us where we are. But where did our brains and aptitude come from? What about the energy and drive we so take for granted? We didn't will them into existence. God gave them to us. The ability to relish a symphony by Mozart, or even write a symphony, is a gift pure and simple. To throw a pass, swing a bat, run a mile, shop for groceries; our wives, husbands, children, friends, jobs—everything good in our lives, in fact, is God's present to us.

“What do you have that you did not receive?” Asks the Apostle (1 Corinthians 4:7). We have to bring ourselves up short time and again with the recollection, “God has blessed me!” No, you're not a millionaire and your job may leave much to be desired; your spouse and kids aren't perfect and neither are you. It's a sinful world. But the things in it are all good gifts from God to you.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17). It's tempting to blame God for our temptations. But no, they belong to us alone, along with the sins they spawn (James 1:13-15). God is the author only of good; the sin in our lives we have to take credit for ourselves.

But God is dealing with that, too. Through the gift of his Son—the greatest and purest gift of all—we are cleansed from guilt and need never fear condemnation on the day of judgment. Through the gift of his Spirit we are able to fight the remnants of sin still very much in our lives. The awesome result is that we ourselves are made into a gift—to God himself. “Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creation” (James 1:18).

Thank God for all his gifts to you. Then thank him for making you into a gift for himself.

*Justified by His
Grace...
the Hope of
Eternal Life.*

Titus 3:7

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THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 438

“All Lands to God in Joyful Sounds”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 382

“God Himself Is with Us”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Exodus 20:1-17

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Lord God, Eternal and Almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O Lord, we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, asking you, through your grace, to relieve our distress. Remind us of your compassion, O Father of mercies. Remind us of all the benefits that are ours in Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. We also ask that you grant us daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness, which are pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 157

“None Other Lamb”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 255

“O Jesus, We Adore Thee”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 30:1-6

Sermon

ADDING SIN TO SIN

THE LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn of Response # 424

“Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless”

Celebrating the Supper

Hymn of Response # 297

“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!”

Congregation remains seated as an offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of this hymn.

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Adult Sunday School class. We are studying the book of Colossians.

Today. We remember the Lord's death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church.

Today. Our quarterly offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of hymn 297, following the Lord's Supper. Please remain seated for the singing of the hymn and then stand for the singing of the Gloria Patri and pronouncement of the Lord's Benediction.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.