

What Do You Want for Christmas?
The Four Gifts (Part 1)
Philippians 1:20-26

“Christ is a more wonderful person than anyone else on earth. He is wiser, more kind, more loving, more patient, more interesting, and stronger than anyone else we enjoy spending time with. Christ is more glorious, more breathtaking, more satisfying, and more refreshing than any experience I could ever have on earth. If this is true, what keeps me from seeing Him and knowing Him in this way?”

“Our battle to make Christmas all about Jesus, is just like every other day in the Christian life in America, it is to lay aside all of the commercialism, consumerism, covetousness, worldliness, emotionalism, and our worship of family and experiences, and set our eyes on our glorious Savior.”

- Philippians 1:20-26: What excites us, what motivates us, what we delight in, what we find satisfying or interesting is what we live for. To live is _____?
 - Paul wanted Christ **to be honored** in the way he lived and in the way he died! He wanted his life and death to bring glory to Christ. He knew that this kind of life would be seen as the right way to live when he stood before Christ.
 - To be honored is to **MAGNIFY** Christ. To desire that people see Christ. To see His worth, His majesty, His importance.
 - If Paul was to continue living, it was to participate in the work of Christ; for the progress and joy of those in Christ. The great joy of the believer is seeing others seeing Christ more clearly. *“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”* (3 John 1:4)
 - Our fruitful labor in the Lord is never in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58). We cannot waste our lives living for Jesus. We can waste our lives living for this world (Mark 8:34-36).
 - To be with Christ, to know Christ, is better than anything that we could ever have or experience in this life. **“Jesus is greater than all I have ever wanted!”**
 - To depart and be with Christ is **FAR BETTER**. To die is gain!
 - The Christian disposition is to be at home with the Lord. This desire grows as we live to please the Lord....*“Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him.”* (2 Corinthians 5:8-9)
 - It was Christ’s work in and through Paul that was going to be used as an instrument to assist them in their maturity. So all glory was to go to Christ!
 - All of us are called to live a life that shows the worth of Christ. **Jesus is worth** a full and totally surrendered life. (Romans 6:16-18; 12:1-2; Galatians 2:20).

Announcements:

★SERVICE TIME CHANGE & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: ***PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT!!*** On Sunday, December 24th, we will be transitioning to our morning worship service time! This will be our Christmas Eve service, at 10:30am. *We will NOT be having an evening service on Christmas Eve!* Christmas Eve is a great opportunity to invite friends, relatives, and co-workers to join you for church.

*A note to all parents: There will be NO Children's Ministry for the Christmas Eve service. Please know that you are welcome to use the Flex Room at the back of the sanctuary if at any point you need to remove your child from our gathering. One parent must be in the Flex Room with their child at all times.

★NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY: Our annual New Year's Eve Party will be on Sunday, December 31st, at Andy Wesley's house (1062 National Drive SE; Hebron). The festivities will start at 6pm and last until midnight! Please plan on joining us for a fun night of games and food and fellowship!

★MEMBERS' MEETING: We will be having a short Members' Meeting NEXT Sunday, December 10th, immediately following the worship service. This meeting is to present the 2024 budget and to give the members a couple of updates. If you are a current church member, please plan on staying for this meeting!

★MEN'S BREAKFAST: The monthly men's breakfast is scheduled for THIS Saturday, December 9th, at 8am, at Panther Pizza. Please let Mike Trapp [(614)477-3330] know if you plan on attending by THIS Wednesday, December 6th!

★LEGACY THEOLOGY PRACTICUM: In 5 weeks from tomorrow, starting on January 8 through March 11, 2024, we will be offering a 10-week course on "**Church History**" on Mondays from 6-9pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be studying the birth of the Church in Acts 2 in 30AD up to our present time of 2023. Our Christian heritage is filled to the brim with fascinating figures whose lives we can learn from. Church history also records the teaching, movements, and mistakes of Christians who held to the truth of the Word and sought to reflect the invisible God. For the past two-thousand years of our history, Christians have wrestled with Scripture. The stories of Polycarp, Athanasius, Irenaeus, Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, and John Wesley (just to name a few) help us to persevere in our faith during tough times and inspire us to live our lives in full for God's glory. We will study the major disputes of Heresy, such as the Council of Nicaea, that condemned Arianism in 325, the Council of Carthage that denounced Pelagianism in 418, and the Council of Chalcedon that rejected Eutychianism in 451. We also will study when Churches and Denominations begin. Please let Elder Richard know if you may be interested in this course so we can prepare a Syllabus for you.

★FELLOWSHIP DINNER: We are having a Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!