



Things Taken For Granted

Jim Mickells

Tuesday evening, I came downstairs from my office, and it seemed the temperature was higher than normal. I asked Sylvia and she thought so as well. I checked the temperature and sure enough it was about 83 degrees. The first thing I did was to check the batteries in the thermostat, not the problem. Next, I went outside to check the unit, which was not running, and upon closer inspection the condenser fan was locked up. The last few days have really taught us that we have taken the AC unit downstairs for granted. This is so easy for one to do.

The expression “things taken for granted” is defined as, “to expect someone or something to be always available to serve in some way without thanks or recognition; to value someone or something too lightly” (McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs).

Certainly, it is not just AC units we take for granted. There are many things of much greater value and importance which we often fail to appreciate like we should until they are gone. What about our health? Maybe you are in good health at the moment, yet all that can change in a matter of seconds. Are we thankful to God for our well being physically speaking? We must make sure we use our bodies as a living sacrifice in serving the Lord while we can (Rom. 12:1). One never knows when we may not be able to visit the sick, go teach someone the gospel of Christ, or assemble with the saints. I remember several years ago going to visit an older member of the Lord’s church who was in the nursing home. He began to weep, telling me how much he wanted to go to church services but now he was unable. Lord help us to appreciate our health.



What about our family, friends, and our brethren? Do we take them for granted? I often hear people say how much they would like to speak to their parents again. Either to ask their advice about something or just once again to utter the words “I love you” to them. One of my best friends passed from this life about 9 years ago at the age of 61. Our plans were that he would retire, buy an RV and we would travel over the country, I would preach, and he would lead singing. That never happened. Instead of taking our mothers and fathers for granted let us honor, love and serve them while they are living (Eph. 6:1-3). May we be to our friends one which “sticks closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24). Please help us Lord to never take our relationships in life for granted.

There is one thing I think covid taught many of us, how much we miss the opportunity to assemble with the people of God and worship. For a few weeks the church here did not meet for worship and Bible study. We were able to present lessons and broadcast them on YouTube so we could at least be instructed and encouraged by the study of God’s word. Yet there was something missing. The Lord knew what was best for His people. Not only are we not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together but we are also to stir up love and good works (Heb. 10:24-25). The first Sunday we were able to assemble again I remember the excitement and joy expressed by so many. To once again be together, to sing, pray, give, study, and partake of the Lord’s



Supper, how up lifting and encouraging it really was. It was so obvious we had taken this for granted for probably many years. Our God and Father in heaven, help us to be thankful for the privilege of coming together with Your people to worship You.

I am so afraid far too many who profess to be Christians take our great God for granted as well. Through out the day how many times do you find yourself just thinking about Him, His greatness, goodness, and power? How often do you approach His throne, petitioning Him for His grace, mercy, and forgiveness? Do you spend time expressing unto Him your thanks for all the blessings received from Him, both physical and spiritual? The song "Count Your Blessings" reminds us to count our many blessings, naming them one by one, and it will surprise us what He has done for each of us. Some use God about like they do a spare tire on their car, the only time they think of Him is when there is an emergency. How often do you think about your spare tire? Have you checked it lately? I think I know the answer. The Psalmist said, "When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice" (Ps. 63:6-7). Oh gracious Father help us to never take You, Your Son, nor Your Spirit for granted.

By the way, the AC man is on his way. Hopefully we will sleep comfortably tonight and appreciate more the blessings given to us by God in this great land in which we live.



Good Reminders: The New Testament church was made up of people from all walks of life, different backgrounds and mannerisms, so they were admonished to be mindful of this. Rom. 12:10 "*Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;*"; Heb. 13:1 "*Let brotherly love continue.*"

—My hope and prayer is that we too can learn to value, cherish, and nurture the gifts each can bring to our sojourn here. Phil. 2:1-4 SDF



GLAD TIDINGS

Sermon Notes: Aug. 22, 2021 Speaker: _____

Topic: _____

Order of Worship August 22, 2021

Song Leader—AM	Gary Barber
Song Leader—PM	Michael Young
Lord's Table	Steve Frazier
Sermon—AM—Devin Barber	Sermon—PM—Devin Barber

Continue prayers for those on our list, and for the free course of the gospel.

1 John 5:14

Editor: Steve Frazier

Marietta church of Christ

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Meeting times of the church

Sunday 09:00 am Bible Classes 10:00 am Worship 05:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

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Hebrews 10:24-25