

The Leftovers

At the risk of appearing snobbish or ungrateful, I've got a confession to make: I don't like leftovers, i.e. cold food that is in need of being reheated. I always have the best of intentions to pull last night's meal out of the refrigerator, throw it in the microwave, nuke it, and consume it, but I fail to do so time and time again. Now, don't get me wrong. I've eaten my fair share of leftovers, but I can't honestly say that I enjoy eating leftovers. The food never seems to taste or look the same. It lacks something.

With respect to your Christian walk, do you realize that God is not interested in your leftovers? In fact, Jesus says that we are to "*seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*" (Matt. 6:33). Among other things, this means that God should come first in every aspect of our lives. Indeed, we should NOT give God our leftover love (Matt. 22:37-38), time (Eph. 5:18), thoughts (Phil. 4:8), service (Gal. 5:13-14), or money (Prov. 3:9; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8-9). In the mind of God, such leftovers lack something.

Being content with giving God the leftovers reveals something about the person who has this attitude. John said, "*We love because He first loved us*" (1 John 4:9). God loved us all so much in the midst of our sin that He took the initiative by sending His Son into the world to die in our place (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). God gave us His very best; in return, He expects the same. Indeed, contentment in giving God the leftovers exposes an ungrateful, selfish attitude.

Leftovers are fine when it comes to nourishing our physical bodies. At times, leftovers are unavoidable, even necessary. However, with respect to God and our spirituality, a life of leftovers is unacceptable, especially when we take into account the example of His Son (cf. Phil. 2:5-11).

Jacob Evans
Lawrenceburg, TN

MINISTERS

Pray for our
Minister search!

Campus Minister
Brad Tolbert

Secretary
Joshua Pettigrew

ELDERS

Mike Beard
Larry Fisackerly
Joe Moore

Deacons

Marty Baker
Chris Bryant
Ray Linder
Jason Meier
Jeff Newton
Joshua Pettigrew
Kerry Rice
Jeremy Wilson

Assemblies

SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Assembly 10:30 AM
Assembly 5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 6:30 PM



MONTICELLO

CHURCH OF CHRIST

"...speaking the truth in love..." Eph. 4:15

December 12, 2021

Do you have the Grace of Giving?

In many of the letters in the New Testament we find examples of people being corrected and encouraged to repent of their sinful behavior. This even includes entire churches like those found in the book of Revelation chapter two and three. Very rarely do we see a person or church that is held up as an example for others and praised for their faith and actions.

Paul spends time in the book of Second Corinthians giving us an example of a group of churches that are praised for their willingness to give themselves to God, and their willingness to help those in need. We have been studying what it means to be the church in our Sunday night class focusing on the establishment of the church found in Acts chapter two. The importance of the early church's example to us as Christians can not be over emphasized. Here Paul holds up the churches in Macedonian as an example for the church at Corinth and all those that might read Paul's letter.

"And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the LORD's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the LORD, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." (2 Corinthians 8:1-7)

Paul instructs the church to excel in the grace of giving. Let us never forget the importance of our generosity. Our giving should not come from a command but from our love for God. Jesus Himself is our perfect example of giving in His willingness to give His all, even His life, for us. We can never give as much as Jesus did, but when we give with a willing heart it will be acceptable to God. (2 Corinthians 8:12) ~Brad Tolbert

Memory Verse

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

- Luke 2:13, 14

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We have a number of members that have been on the prayer list for some time. Let's remember them as they continue to struggle with health challenges.

Cheryl Shirey will have a valve replacement on December 8th.

Gary Crook's sister, Kathryn Burton, is in Bellevue Nursing Home. She is doing better but is still dealing with pneumonia.

Phillip Colvin's sister, Naomi Burrow, has pneumonia.

Mignon Griffin had a stress test that showed an abnormality. She will have a heart cath scheduled.

Christmas time can bring up a lot of bitter-sweet memories for those that have lost loved ones. Let's pray for God's comfort and peace to heal those that mourn.

Tonight at 5-6PM there will be a special presentation by the small group kid's class with a short worship service following. After evening worship, everyone is invited to the home of Kelly and Anna Koonce for Carols at the Koonces'.

The next Ladies Night Out will be at the Beards' home (1459 Barkada Road) on

TODAY'S EVENTS

- Worship livestreamed at 10:30
- Special presentation by kids small group and worship at 5:00
- Carols at the Koonce's

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members:

Linda Bates...Tony & Judy Beard...Terry Boykin... Roger & Margaret Harris... Ray Leonard... Joe and Peggy Moore...Barbara Newton...Jessica Pettigrew...LaVerne Potter...Cheryl Shirey... Rita Stiles... Carolyn Wilson...Donnie & Janice Wright

Shut-ins:

Jean Enlow...Betty McGuire...Bob & Pat Turner... Marie Wooten

Serving in the Military:

Mollie Aldridge...Corey Bryant...Bradyn Curtis... Noah Draper... David Foret... Tucker Koonce... Matthew May... Neil Rampy ... Christian Stepanovich... Mathew Tannehill...Curtis Walker

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Chris Beard...Rusty Blanks...Naomi Burrow...Kathryn Burton...family of William Busby...family of Bill Cook...Alli Cooper... Jeremy Ewell...Oliver and Mignon Griffin... Olivia Harrod...Niylah Jacobs...Tina Jarvius...Johnny Jeter... Deane Johnson...Judy Johnson...family of JL Johnston...Shirley Majors... Erica Marillo... Kent Measal...Austin & Andrea Oesch...David & Loyce Ray.. Christy Rice...Turner Roberts...Don & Suzzette Russell.. minister search.. Homer Shirey... Elizabeth(Moore) Stepanovich(du e in Dec.)... Katie Strickland... Kaylee Thelli...Robert and Sue Thomas...Bob Tolson...Sissy Tucker...James Walton... Dr. Dwight Witcher... Wayne Witson..William Woods... Sue Woodward...

Birthdays & Anniversaries

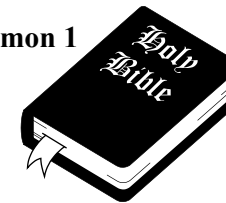


- Dec. 6 Denon Weaver
Marty & Sandra Baker
- 8 Jeff Newton
Eddy Don Russell
- 11 Jeff & Sara Newton
Monty & Mamie Meier
- 13 Dylan Thompson
- 17 Avery Smith
- 19 Julie Pettigrew
Railey Curtis
- 23 John & Janet Staudinger
Josie Knight
- 28 Philip Colvin
Dagan Danley*

*Dagan's birthday was mistakenly listed as Nov. 28th in the last bulletin. Apologies!

Nov-Dec Daily Bible Reading Schedule

- 13 2 Timothy 1-4
- 14 Titus 1-3 & Philemon 1
- 15 Hebrews 1-4
- 16 Hebrews 5-8
- 17 Hebrews 9-13
- 18 James 1-3
- 19 James 4-5



Heart-To-Heart cont'd...

December 16th at 6:30PM. Please bring a Christmas gift or ornament (\$10 limit). The donation of the night will be Hospital Baby Bibles. Wear an ugly sweater to participate in the ugly sweater contest! All refreshments will be provided.

The Teen Christmas Party will be at the Wilsons' house on December 18th at 5:30.

The next Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, December 18th at 6AM in the Fellowship Hall.

There will be a Christmas Party for the kids small group class at the Beards' home December 19th after evening service. Bring a \$10 boy/girl gift. Parents are invited.

All Ladies are invited to the Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Class every Wednesday morning at 10:00 in room 134 at the building.

There is a file box in the foyer with a folder in it for each family. If you would like to use this to deliver Christmas cards or notes of encouragement to those who attend here, please do so. They may be picked up at any time. If you don't want to file them, then leave them in a pile and someone will file them for you. If you don't see a folder for your family, there are blank ones in the back or let Mandy Tolbert know and she will create one for you.

Attendance

Bible Class 80
 Sunday AM Worship... 110
 Sunday PM Worship 71
 Wed. Evening 62
 Contribution.....\$4,712

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MISSIONS

Truth for Today
 In Search of the
 Lord's Way

NURSERY

Communion Preparation

Dec 12 Mandy Tolbert
 Dec 19 Stacy Usry
 Dec 26 Stacy Usry
 Jan 2 Rachel Wilson

Ladies December Duties

Cards: Margaret Harris
 Food: Pam Beard
 Judy Beard