



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill

Church of Christ

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Harold D. Mangrum
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Eddie F. Ray III

Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,
Pulpit Evangelist
Matthew Jones,
Personal Evangelist

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.... 10:30 A.M.
Afternoon Worship.....1:30 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

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Everlasting Life

Wayne Lankford

If we believe in God's existence, we can also (by the same standard) believe in "Everlasting life." The prophet Daniel wrote, *and many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt* (Dan. 12:2). Of course man, with his finite mind cannot understand the infinite mind of God. Paul wrote, *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements, and his ways past finding out!* (Rom. 11:33). Daniel's reference is regarding the final resurrection of the just and the unjust. Jesus said, *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation* (John 5:28-29).

When the Word became flesh (John 1:14), Everlasting life was brought to light (John 3:16). The majority of us have stood at the open grave, as a friend or loved one's body is brought to its final resting place but realized this is not the end. Jesus said at the grave of His friend Lazarus as He spoke words of comfort to Martha, *Thy brother shall rise again* (John 11:23). Next He told her, *I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?* (John 11:25-26). The only way we can know this truth is from God's Word. Bible faith is based on hope (Heb 11:1). We have many reasons for hope of Everlasting life.

God's power assures us of Everlasting life. He is the creator of the world and all in it (Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:11). He continues *upholding all things by the Word of His power* (Heb. 1:3). Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well, *But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life* (John 4:14). To enjoy Everlasting life, one must in this life obey the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16). Salvation is found only "in Christ" (see 2 Tim. 2:10). Those who reject this power "judge themselves unworthy of everlasting life" (see Acts 13:46).

God's dependability gives promise to Everlasting life. Peter wrote, *God is not slack regarding His promises...* (see 2 Pet. 3:9). Moses recorded the words of Balaam the prophet saying, *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?* (Nu. 23:19). We have assurance death is not the end for faithful Christians. Paul wrote, *For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens* (2 Cor. 5:1). These facts give hope, joy, and comfort to all who are faithful in Jesus.

Reflections on Giving

Jason Jackson

My dad helped me in more ways than I can imagine. Whether it was a pearl of wisdom or a fatherly directive, I treasure many things my father taught me.

When it came to preaching on giving, my dad said to me: “*You can’t preach on giving if you don’t give.*” And when my dad said “give” he meant **biblical, generous giving**. He never told me how much to give, but he taught me through biblical teaching and example how to think and feel about giving.

My parents taught my sister, brother and me about giving from an early age. We knew that Dad and Mom practiced what they preached to us and what my dad preached in the pulpit. They gave generously and sacrificially, even when they were barely getting by.

Furthermore, we watched as Dad and Mom privately were generous to individuals and causes outside of the local church. Yet, they did not feel it was appropriate to help other causes by cutting their regular contribution. Thus, the practice in our home was to give as directed by the Scriptures and motivated by the love of God—adjusting our living to our giving.

With three teenagers of our own, Jill and I pass on to them the same spiritual truths.

Through Paul’s inspired guidance in 2 Corinthians 8-9, we reflect on giving. Although the Corinthian church excelled “in faith, in speech, in knowledge, [and] in all earnestness,” these folks needed to “excel in this act of grace also” (8:7). Paul called giving a “grace” because it is a blessing to give as an expression of our gratitude and love for God. In these chapters, Paul invited the church in Corinth to consider their giving in view of **how the allocation of their congregational resources** could work for eternal good.

GIVING MEETS NEEDS

By congregational giving the church can meet physical and spiritual needs. The gift supplies “the needs of the saints,” and Paul hoped it would also meet spiritual, even evangelistic, needs (cf. Rom. 15:25-31).

GIVING INVOLVES GROWTH

Giving is an occasion for the personal growth of the giver. Paul references an example—the churches of Macedonia. These congregations (i.e., churches in the province of Macedonia) had some things in common. For one, they were in extreme poverty (2 Cor. 8:2 [ESV]). But these churches also gave “beyond their means, of their own free will” (v. 3). They were not coerced. They “begged us,” Paul said, “earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints” (v.4).

Paul identifies the reason for their loving spirit —“they gave themselves first to the Lord” (v. 5). Was Paul suggesting something about the spiritual depth of the Macedonian Christians, the lack of such depth in the Corinthian Christians, or perhaps both? Spiritual development and giving are inseparable.

Givings is also a sign of **congregational growth**. Giving was not simply a matter of what they did individually on Sunday. It was also how they gave as a congregation—how they allocated the resources that had been given by the members.

The Corinthians developed in other areas, but they needed to put their resources to work (v. 7). Other brethren had contributed to their spiritual good in the past (12:13). It was time to **help others**, realizing that their spiritual action would multiply in spiritual good. In making this congregational donation, they would actually be submitting to the will of God—not the projects of Paul (9:13).

Paul taught the Corinthians:

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully...And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work (9:6, 8).

The apostle admonished the Corinthians to keep their focus on the gospel. God is able. God is supporting this work.

Don’t think, Paul warns, that you may do more *by doing less*. Paul quoted the testimony of scripture (Psa. 112:9) It is God, actually, who does the giving. We are merely his stewards of his assets. (cf. 1 Cor. 4:2).

GIVING ENCOURAGES OTHERS

Seeing the Corinthians’ gift, others would offer thanks to God—the one who teaches us about giving (9:11-12). The receivers will glorify God (v. 13), and others would be moved by the proof of their genuine love (8:8; 9:2).

Indeed, as the Lord said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

GIVING FLOWS FROM LOVE

Christianity is love in action. The apostle John wrote:

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth. (1 Jn. 3:16-18).

God has given more than words can express. “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Cor. 9:15) [NASB]).

(*Christian Courier*, June 2018)

PRESIDE: Kalon Brown Rufus Washington
ASSIST: Cole Bennett Bob Gitter
 Jackson Greer John Pope
 Edison Ray Marv Sowell

A.M. OPENING: Francis Fairley
A.M. CLOSING: Zach Gross
P.M. OPENING: Isaac McLaurin
P.M. CLOSING: Tony Callahan

If you are unable to lead prayer or serve at the Lord's table, please contact Cedric Huff or Paul Connell.

RECORD, WEEK of July 29, 2018

BIBLE STUDY:	225
A.M. WORSHIP:	270
P.M. WORSHIP:	185
CONTRIBUTON:	\$15,640.00

HOMEBOUND

Virginia Ditto	Betty Jones
Hazel Eskew	Clarine Justice
Doris Jean Cole	Jerry & Betty Robbins
Anita Hopper	Velton & Dorothy Trimm
Albert & Ruth House	

OUR SICK

Ill at home: Phil Houston, recovering from surgery (no visitors please).

Lisa Howard, is currently undergoing some tests for health complications.

Wayne Sanders, recovering from surgery.

Taylor Caffey, father of Kathy Maund, recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Harrison Crowe, grandson of Jim and Brenda Crowe, tonsillectomy.

Our Sympathy Is Extended to Bob Bergstrom and family in the death of his brother, Richard Bergstrom of Salem, MA.

To the Forest Hill family,
 Thank you for the lovely basket of flowers for Jim's service. We appreciate all you have done to support and comfort us during the time of grief.

With Love, Marsha & the Beliew family

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "F" (STEVE ALLMOND) and TEAM "G" (TOM WACASTER) will have a covered dish luncheon Sunday, August 5 after morning service.

TEAM "H" (KALON BROWN) will receive assignment cards August 5.

Team "E" (JIM WOODY) will meet Saturday, August 11 at the home of Jim and Edwyna Woody. Pizza will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert. Contact Edwyna at (901) 484-1569 or edwinner@comcast.net.

EVENTS

LADIES AND MEN'S COMBINED CLASSES meet each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

2018 SUMMER SERIES Wednesdays, June 20-August 8. Theme: *Add to Your Faith... (A Study of the Christian Graces)*. Speaker August 1: T.J. Clarke. Topic: *Add to Your Faith...Brotherly Kindness*.

KIRBY PINES Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45 a.m., conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, August 26.

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHEON Sunday, August 12 following morning worship. **ELDERS AND DEACONS MEETING** immediately after luncheon beginning at 12:30. Zones 3 and 4 will be responsible for set up and clean up. Zone 6 will be responsible for drink preparation.

Please continue to pray for Matt Jones and family who have been on a mission trip to the Bahamas during the month of July, they will be returning home soon.

Best wishes to Daniel and Bryn Manning as they move to Salisbury, Maryland. We look forward to their return in one year.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!

Last week's solution:

Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. Luke 17:3

CORNERSTONE

Scriptogram: Each letter in the passage is replaced with another.

FMSPJQ, HSM QDXG RPOM, GDKHS HSM JPNQ, HSDH K EKJJ
 NDKGM LAHP QDIKQ D NKZSHMPLG FNDARS, DAQ D CKAZ
 GSDJJ NMKZA DAQ YNPGYMN, DAQ GSDJJ MWMRLHM
 TLQZOMAH DAQ TLGHKRM KA HSM MDNHS. KA SKG QDXG
 TLQDS GSDJJ FM GDIMQ, DAQ KGNDMJ GSDJJ QEMJJ
 GDUMJX

DAQ HSKG KG SKG ADOM ESMNMFY SM GSDJJ FM RDJMQ,
 HSM JPNQ PLN NKZSHMPLGAMGG.

C=K Solution next week. R=C

If You Are Prospering...Give!

The Gross Domestic Product which measures economic growth in our country grew at a phenomenal 4.1% during the second quarter of this year. This indicates a booming economy, better than any economy that has ever been seen by our younger generation. While the financial situation varies for individuals because of many different factors, let us not forget that if we are prospering we should be mindful of giving more to the Lord. Remember Paul's admonition, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him" (1 Cor. 16:1,2). Remember one cannot out give God. Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38). John desired that the children of God prosper. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3rd John 2). Notice, he specifically mentions the prospering of the soul. However he wanted them to prosper in every area of life, as well. If you are prospering financially you should rejoice and give thanks. Likewise, don't forget to give to the Lord so that you can help expand the borders of His kingdom.

Barry

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