

Then comes a basic principle of Christian life: Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

(Secular) “What goes around comes around.” (Hindu) Karma

(Biblical) Proverbs 11:24-25 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper (lit. become fat, fig. satisfied); he who refreshes (quenches the thirst) others will himself be refreshed (have his thirst quenched). (See Proverbs 22:8-9 too.)

Jesus (not just about \$\$) Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (loving your enemy, forgiving others, being merciful, judging others).

The Kingdom of God is where God meets our needs:
2 Cor 9:8 God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need...

The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of Abundance:
John 10:10 I have come that they (his sheep) may have life, and have it abundantly.

The world however is a place or not enough/scarcity,
and is at odds with the Kingdom of God.

Matt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon.

Matt 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

As Paul reminds the Corinthians in the Kingdom of God - You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. AND

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

Sermon Notes 11/19/23

FIRST THOUGHTS Psalm 118:19-24 p. 956
“Giving Thanks for Our Eternal Salvation”

The Psalmists says: I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. AND

I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

The Psalmist would not be thinking in terms of eternal salvation as we do.

1. The context of the Psalm would seem to indicate being saved from his enemies.

2. The idea of eternal life was not well developed when the Psalm was written.

It is however proper for us to see the Psalm in this light because Jesus referred to himself as, “The stone the builders rejected.”

Peter quotes this Psalm directly in talking about Jesus:

1 Peter 2:7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,"

FURTHER THOUGHTS 2 Corinthians 9:1-13 p. 1,803

“*Financial Generosity Leading to Thanksgiving to God*”

Context: (As, “context gives meaning.”)

1. An offering for the Church in Jerusalem is being received.

2. The Corinthians Church has promised a generous offering to the cause, that Paul has used to motivate the Church in Macedonia to do the same.

2 Cor 8:2-4 *Out of the most 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...*

3. Paul is now using his “bragging” about them to the Macedonians as a means to make sure the Corinthians stay motivated.

2 Cor 9:4 *For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we — not to say anything about you — would be ashamed of having been so confident.*

FINAL THOUGHTS Luke 17:11-19 p. 1,627

"Taking the Time To Say 'Thanks'"

10 Lepers (Jewish/Samaritan) At least one was a Samaritan.

In fact, the only one to come back was a Samaritan

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" (i.e. if this Samaritan knew enough to come back and give thanks, certainly those from among God's people should have).

What kept the others from coming back?

Not enough time? A sense of entitlement? What other reasons?

Jesus "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

*Prayerfully, openly engage in relationships
through Christ's love."*

CONTACT INFO

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PRAYER LIST

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Jenn Richards, Pastor.

Presbyterian: PA Council of Churches- Sandra Strauss

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Christmas Festival:

Calling all who are interested in helping with the Family Christmas Festival--**Walk to Bethlehem** with Mary and Joseph. Please meet with the Community Life committee and Debby Madden **after worship on November 19**. We are looking for folks to play Mary, Joseph, an Angel and a Roman soldier... That involves a short skit and helping the children on the walk. And we always need Christmas cookies/goodies. Questions? Call Rausa at 717-776-9142.

Thanksgiving Community Service:

First United will be hosting the Community Thanksgiving Service on **Monday, November 20, at 7 p.m.** Pastor Steve of Big Spring Presbyterian will be leading the service. There will be a reception following the service.

Truck Stop Cookie Packing:

NEW DATE AND TIME! We will be packing cookies for the Truck Stop Ministry on **Saturday Dec 2 at 4:30 pm**. Please have your cookies to the church by 3:00 pm that day marked for the TSM. All cookies are welcome (no bar cookies), or individually wrapped holiday candies. Questions: Kathy (717) 580-3874. PS: **stay after for Dan Dorthy's organ concert** at 6:30 p.m.

Poinsettias 2023: If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia to be placed in the Sanctuary for Christmas, please fill in the form(hallway table) and give to Elisabeth Gauthier **no later than Sunday December 3rd**, along with cash, or a check made out to the **First United Presbyterian Church**. Poinsettias will be here for December 10th. Thanks!

Mitten Tree: Mittens, gloves, scarfs, and hats for people of all ages will be received until **December 10th**. They will be given to the Carlisle Salvation Army to distribute. Talk to Doris Mae Kennedy if you have any questions.