

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

Volume IX ~ Issue XVI ~ January 11th, 2009

<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

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Sunrise Acres

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:
8625 Robert Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

915-525-5794

OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM

Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: "Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

But We Still Want More

By: Brian A. Yeager

My children have had to learn that there are times wherein we can do more financially and times when we can't. My children have had to learn to be like Paul: "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need" (Philippians 4:12). Sometimes we have done well, but many times we have not. We can look around us today and see that people seemingly cannot be content with what they have. Too many people want more and more.

While it is not wrong to enjoy material blessings (Ecclesiastes 5:18-19 and I Timothy 6:17), we need to realize that we must be content even if all we can have are the necessities of life (I Timothy 6:8). We should not worry about the physical things in life as much as most people do (Matthew 6:25; 31; 7:7-11). Yet, people seem to want the bigger and better things in life. Brethren, we should not always be wanting more. At some point, we need to have enough (Hebrews 13:5-6).

Another puzzling want of "Christians" is more spiritual blessings. Have you considered how much has been done already? Notice: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, **even the salvation of your souls**" (1 Peter 1:3-9). Yet, the requests will continue for more!

Dear Lord, I Ask That You Give Me Things You've Already Given Me Through Your Word

The Lord has blessed us by giving us His inspired word. His word guides us (Psalms 119:105), gives us wisdom (Colossians 3:16), comforts us (Romans 15:4), edifies us (Acts 20:32), gives us an understanding (Ephesians 3:4), saves us (James 1:21), and onward we could go. The word of our Lord had the cost of His life (Hebrews 9:15-26). Yet, though the word of our Lord already provides many things, people still ask for those things which God has already given. "Brethren" ask for knowledge, but they don't want to study to gain it (Acts 17:10-11 and II Timothy 2:15). "Brethren" ask for God to open the hearts of others, but God's word will do that to an honest heart (Luke 8:15 and Hebrews 4:12). "Brethren" ask God to help people be saved, but they ignore the power of the Gospel which is ALREADY given (Romans 1:16). "Brethren" ask for God to help keep them from sinning, but they ignore that is the purpose of God's word (Psalms 119:11). "Brethren" begin to feel that their faith is dying or is dead. They then ask God for help ignoring the fact that His word would solve that problem if they just looked into it (Psalms 119:50, John 6:63, and Romans 10:17).

We could continue a rather long list of things brethren ask for which have already been given through God's word. God's word really is all sufficient (II Peter 1:3)! We need to stop asking for things which God has already provided through His word. We then need to look at the spiritual blessings which we already have and realize that enough is truly enough.

Hasn't He Done Enough?

What more could we ask for than the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 1:3-7) and eternity with the Lord (Romans 2:6-7 and I John 2:24-25)? Well, if you consider the prayers of some, there is a whole lot more we can ask for. Heaven just is not enough. (Let me pause here to include that God expects us to make requests of Him - Philippians 4:6. I am not trying to suggest we should never ask for anything that God has not already given. My goal, in the event that it is not clear by the conclusion of this article, is to make us think about how ungrateful and selfish we can get at times.) I once knew an older brother in Christ who had grown children who had their hands out all of the time. This brother would often get frustrated with his children for when they called it was for a need of theirs rather than to check in on him or even to thank him for all he did for them. He would often express how they used him. He did not feel the kind of love he deserved from his children. Do we ever want our Heavenly Father to feel this way?

"Brethren" often have long lists of things they ask for. If someone is sick, they expect miracles to exist, which have ceased (I Corinthians 13:8-10) to heal them rather than realizing that even the faithful do die (Hebrews 9:27). If jobs are lost, people actually have prayed for God to help them find a job as though God is an employment service. Providing for our families is our responsibility (I Timothy 5:8) and God has already given each of us abilities we can use in all manners of service (I Peter 4:11). This is another list that could go on, but we need to stop and be thankful at times rather than always asking for more and more (cf. Colossians 4:2).

Conclusion

God has taken care of our physical needs (Matthew 5:45) and our spiritual needs (Matthew 4:4). We know that we have no control over tomorrow (James 4:13-15). There is a saying that goes something like this: "wake up and smell the coffee". Let's take time to step back and consider our blessings. Even the vilest person can be thankful for something. If for nothing else, they can be thankful that God has granted another day wherein they may get their lives right (cf. II Peter 3:9-10). In conclusion: *"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful"* (Colossians 3:15).

What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)? Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).