

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

WEEK OF SUNDAY DECEMBER 29, 2024

Announcements	Jordan Rothfus
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SUNDAY DOOR GREETERS

North Side	Ricky/Kelly/Payne Davis
South Side	Allen/ June Cantrell

SUNDAY DOOR MONITOR

Gary Robinson	Ricky Davis
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MORNING WORSHIP

Adult Bible Class Prayer	Jere Whitson
Song Leader	Jonathan Whitson
First Prayer	Gary Loftis
Sermon	John Chowning
Lord's Table	Todd Webb
Closing Prayer	Allen Cantrell

Evening Worship

Song Leader	Men of Congregation
First Prayer	Men of Congregation
Sermon	Men of Congregation
Lord's Table	Bobby Rothfus
Closing Prayer	Men of Congregation

Wednesday January 1, 2025

Song Leader	Jay Whitson
Scripture Reading	Levi Swallows
Devotional Talk	Ricky Davis
Closing Prayer	Adam Swallows

Wednesday Door Monitor

Jere Whitson

Jere Whitson is responsible for worship assignments. If you are going to be absent or need to request changes, please contact him.

Gospel Broadcast Supported
Preaching the Gospel, Sunday 7:30 A.M. – Ch. 11

Important News:

2024 Theme

Here Am I, Send Me

Isaiah 6:8

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me,”

The elders will be announcing details for the upcoming 2025 Theme, so stay tuned for those details and an uplifting year.

THIS WEEK’S TEXTS

AM class– 2 Timothy 3:16-4:5

AM sermon– Ephesians

PM sermon– Men of Congregation

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SUNDAY

Bible Study9:00 AM
Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.

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It Is Written

readthewordtoday.com

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Rejoicing, Praying, and Giving Thanks

Roger Shouse

“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

These triplets of verses are listed without explanation, instructions or reasons. By this time, the Thessalonian brethren, though young in faith, ought to know. The profession of our faith is not a Sunday morning thing. It’s an everyday, all the time, lifestyle. It is who we are. It’s in our DNA. It’s our new culture and climate.

Those that don’t get it, simply don’t show it, nor experience it. They might sit in a pew on Sunday morning, but the rest of the week, they are acting like every dog in town. It’s a dog eat dog world we are told, and they are right in the midst of the dog fight. Not the disciple of Jesus. Rejoicing, praying and thanking, that’s his mode of operation.

Have you noticed the continuation words attached to these concepts. It's not just rejoice, but rejoice always. Always never ends. Always is in the morning when you get up. Always is what you do throughout the day. Always is when you tuck yourself into bed at night, tired and weary, yet still rejoicing. It's an on going rejoice. Always Rejoicing.

And, the prayers are just like that. The apostle said more than just pray. Pray without ceasing. The rejoicing is always and now the praying is ceaseless. Multiple prayers shot Heavenward every day. Too many to count. Too many to remember. Praying about this person. Thanking the Lord for this blessing. Seeking mercy from above. The prayers never stop.

And, the thankfulness is for everything. The good things. The nice things. The obvious things. The unseen things. Rejoicing that never stops. Praying that never stops. And, now thanking the Lord for everything.

Here are some thoughts:

First, if we really dug into these three simple statements, our outlook, words and hope would be so different. Some pray only when they have to. And, even then, it's hard and difficult. They are simply not used to doing that much. Going to many homes as I do as a visiting preacher, you recognize which families are accustomed to waiting to thank the Lord in prayer before they eat. Sometimes one will start to eat and then that person has to be reminded, "We haven't said the prayer yet."

Always rejoicing—even in the rain. Always praying—even when nothing bad is happening. Always being thankful—even when you have already said "Thank You."

Second, starting and stopping is hard in life. Momentum is like that. It's often hard to get things rolling, but once they are rolling, it's hard to stop them. The Ethiopian on his way back home, having already worshipped, was riding in his chariot reading Isaiah. Church was over, we'd say, and he's still reading the Bible. Why? He didn't have to. He had a faith that wouldn't stop.

Don't flip your faith off, like a light switch, when you leave the church building on a Sunday. Keep that faith going. Talk about the wonderful things you saw in worship over the noon meal. Take out your sermon notes and run your eyes over them again. Be thankful for who you saw. Pray for those who are struggling.

Third, from these words of Paul, you'd expect to find those Thessalonians doing those things on a Monday as much as on a Sunday. Rejoicing. Praying. Thanking. Doing it so often and all the time, it just becomes natural to them.

And, there is something about those three words: rejoicing, praying and thanking. All three words have a way of connecting us closer to the Lord. There are some who seem to know the Lord so well. The reason is always they are rejoicing. They never stop praying. They are thankful for everything. Spiritual. Close. Hopeful.

It's hard to find these three qualities, of rejoicing, praying and thanking residing in a sour heart. One that is bent on complaining won't be rejoicing, praying and thanking very much. And, that just might be the very thing that we need to look in the mirror about. Everyone around us is mad, complaining and grumpy. Are you like that? Or, have you chosen to be rejoicing, praying and thanking? And, it's not just once in a while, but it's always, never ceasing, and for everything.

How are you doing with these things?

IMPORTANT NEWS

-This upcoming Sunday, December 29th, we will have a potluck meal following morning services, following the meal, the preparing of sunshine bags will take place.

-Sunday December 29th evening worship services will be led by the Christian men of the congregation in songs, prayers, and scriptures.

-The elders are still looking for someone to help with assisting in the organizing of the library move that is upcoming. Please let them know if you are interested.

ILLNESSES

Kim Chowning, remains at home recovering from left knee replacement and improving as expected, she has started physical therapy.

Jim Scarlett, had a fall recently and broke his hip.

SYMPATHY

Pat Eaves, passed away December 21st after having a stroke, visitation will be Saturday, December 28th at Crestlawn Funeral Home from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Her funeral will be at 3 p.m.

Daniel Loftis, passed away Sunday, December 22nd at his home peacefully. His visitation will be held at Crestlawn Funeral Home on Thursday, December 26th from 4 to 8 p.m. and Friday, December 27th from 10 a.m. until time of funeral at 11 a.m.

PANTRY ITEM:

Small Jars of Grape Jelly

EXTENDED ILLNESS

Bonnie Stockton, Jerry Vincent, Gary Wyatt, Carol Meadows, Junior and Lou Bryant, Ora Lee Whitaker, Sue Ing, Mike and Lucy Mitchell, and Bill and Betty Barnes.

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PREACHER

John Chowning
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Ext. 801

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Ext. 802

Deacons Cont'd

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Jere Whitson
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