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We are delighted to have Bible Classes with students eager to learn, and teachers prepared to assist and grow also. Let's avail ourselves of the time looking closely at God's word, the Bible. Make sure you bring a copy with you to class! If you don't have a copy, let us know, as we have plenty available for distribution so that you can have one for yourself. We urge all to study the Bible, for it is the basis of our unity: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."(1 Corinthians 1:10).

### God's Salvation Plan

Divine Love:	John 3:16
God's Grace:	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood:	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel:	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith:	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance:	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession:	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian Work:	James 2:24
Christian Hope:	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance:	Revelation 2:10

### Bible Class LESSON TEXTS

Sunday, December 18, 2022	Wednesday, December 21, 2022
<i>Four Young Men</i> <b>Daniel 1</b>	<i>Daniel and the Dream</i> <b>Daniel 2</b>

But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [\(1 Corinthians 15:57 KJV\)](#)

Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

[\(2 Corinthians 2:14 KJV\)](#)

### SERVICES

#### SUNDAY:

Bible Class 9:30am  
Worship 10:25 am

Worship 6:00 pm

#### WEDNESDAY:

Ladies' Bible Class  
40:00 am

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

#### **Elders:** John David Thomas

Johnny Thomas 903/628-1292

Russell Tyndell 903/748-2672

**Deacons:** Jody Thomas  
Blake Tyndell Jamey Thomas

**Office:** Monday - Friday  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
903/628-2891

**Minister:** Jim Patterson, Secretary  
Kevin Cauley  
Local# 430/200-7870

## Happenings in God's Family



Vol.51 No. 49

December 18, 2022

### The Gift Given for All Time

It is customary to give gifts to our loved ones at certain times of the year. Birthdays, weddings, the birth of children, and anniversaries may merit our benevolence. The Christmas holiday is another such occasion. It is an annual tradition in our family to exchange gifts, and we have observed this tradition as long as I can remember. It is such a happy time for children who love to receive new things, for parents who enjoy watching the children revel in the bliss of new delights, and for all who appreciate the blessing of being able to give to others; "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Second Corinthians 9:15 says, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." "Unspeakable" here means that words are not adequate to express all there is to say about how significant something is, and this is the situation we find ourselves in as Christians when we give thanks for the gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ. John 3:16 teaches us that Jesus is God's gift to humanity and what a great gift He is. He is God's gift to us not just once a year, but for all time.

Do we feel the same joy for the gift God gave to us as we do for those fleeting baubles that we exchange each December? When Paul wrote, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice" (Philippians 4:4), he had Jesus in mind. He is the gift given for all time with whom and by whom we may rejoice forever. After the "season of giving" has ended, God's gift giving goes on. At any given moment the Christian should reflect on the gift of Christ and rejoice forevermore.

God bless you, and I love you.

Kevin Cauley

**OUR FAITH IN ACTION**

**Wednesday, Dec 7, 2022**

Evening classes and devo -----46

**SUNDAY, Dec 11, 2022**

AM Bible class -----47

AM Worship -----70

PM Worship -----41

Contribution -----\$2,343.75

Average to Date -----\$2,845.14

Budget -----\$2,950.00



**Canned Chili**

HR<sup>2</sup> items:  
paper towels or  
toilet paper

Birthdays	
Payton Clark	Dec 21
Derrell Patterson	Dec 24

**Please Pray for ...**

Keith & Helen Clark	Robin Upson
Winnie Tucker	Gerald Watkins
Debbie Crawford	David Perkins
Blake Drinkard	Mendi Shirley
Stephen Fillingame	Glenda Lambert
Don Grider	Marie Robertson
Mary Hankins	Foster/Watkins families
Vinson Hardage	Linda Brown
Cayden Harris	Raynee Crabtree
Marc Higgs	Wil Segraves
Brandon Kumpy	Habashi family
James Love	Kyndlee Clark
Glenda May	
Henry Murray	
Faith Salfen	

Reminders and Notices

1. The a missionary in Egypt, Alfred Habashi, wrote us emails lately and told of his wife Hala's health problems. She passed away. **Please pray for the Habashi family. Got another prayer request this week.**
2. Ladies' Bible Class will resume after the first of the year.

Blessings in Disguise

As Paul writes to the brethren at Philippi, he is a prisoner of the Roman government. Because he holds a certificate of Roman citizenship, he is allowed to live in a rented house under the guard of a Praetorian soldier to whom he is chained. The Praetorians were charged with guarding the emperor and his prisoners. In Paul's situation, a Praetorian would be chained to his wrist for three hours at a time, so that Paul had the opportunity to preach the gospel to eight different men each day, fifty-six per week, 2912 per year. In two years, he would have communicated the gospel to perhaps 5800 men.

So he writes, "Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole Praetorian Guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly" (Philippians 1:12-24).

Few could aspire to be imprisoned, but Paul says it had turned out to be a tremendous opportunity for God to work through him. He had written in Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." His imprisonment at Rome was an example.

We often find ourselves in circumstances we would not have chosen. Who would choose to be impoverished? Who would choose to be homely if given a choice? Who would choose to be sick? Who would choose bereavement? Yet these can all be blessings in disguise. The rich face many temptations to misuse their resources. The beautiful people of this world face many temptations to capitalize on their looks. Sickness and bereavement cause us to focus on what's really important rather than on the superficial. And if we are watching for them, we'll often find opportunities for spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. So Let us count our blessings, including the ones that come disguised as curses.

Jim Mullican  
Channelview church of Christ  
Channelview TX via *Bulletin Digest* October, 2002

Servants, Dec 18	
Announcements: Blake Tyndell	
AM Prayers	PM Prayers
Derrell Patterson	Johnny Thomas
Jimmy Smith	Jim Patterson
Lord's Table	
John David Thomas	Jerry Yates
Johnathon Thomas	
PM Communion: John David Thomas	
PM Songleader: Scott Overstreet	
Servants, Dec 25	
Announcements: Blake Tyndell	
AM Prayers	PM Prayers
Earnest Shelton	Jerry Yates
Johnny Thomas	Scott Overstreet
Lord's Table	
John David Thomas	Jerry Yates
Johnathon Thomas	
PM Communion: John David Thomas	
PM Songleader: John David Thomas	
<i>If for some reason you cannot serve, please call John D. Thomas-903-490-5572</i>	