

What Do You Want for Christmas?
The Four Gifts (Part 3)
“A Warm Embrace of Faith”
Hebrews 10:32-11:1,25-26

“Faith **receives** God’s truth with **delight**, not with indifference or disgust. Faith **receives** God’s truth with **confidence**, not with doubt. Faith **receives** God’s truth as **desirable and preferred**, not as an option among many.”

*“Well done, **good and faithful** servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the **joy of your Master.**” (Matthew 25:21)*

- The Foundation of Faith:
 - “For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham **believed God**, and it was counted to him as righteousness.’” (Romans 4:3)
 - (Abraham was) “**fully convinced that God** was able to do what He had promised.” (Romans 4:21)
 - “For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous **shall live by faith.**’” (Romans 1:17)
 - “Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)
 - “And without faith **it is impossible to please Him**, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

“Faith is the way to life and faith is the way to live.”

- The Joyful Practice of Faith:
 - “In this **you rejoice**, though now for a little while, if necessary, **you have been grieved by various trials**, so that **the tested genuineness of your faith** — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to **result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**” (1 Peter 1:6-7)
 - Think, Think, Think: “Do I warmly embrace truth?”
 - “Endured a hard struggle with sufferings.”
 - “Publicly exposed to reproach and affliction.”
 - “The plundering of your property.”
 - “Being mistreated with the people of God.”
 - “The reproach of Christ.”
 - Wow! “He was looking to the reward!!!!”
 - “You endured”; “You joyfully”; “You had compassion”; “You have done the will of God”; “You do not shrink back”.

Worship: Tis So Sweet— Various Artists

O Come All You Unfaithful — Sovereign Grace Music

Away in a Manger (Preeminence Lay) — Jacob Mcelfresh

Closing Song: Jesus I My Cross Have Taken — Indelible Grace Music

Service Times: Sundays: Church 10:30a; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30p/Men 6:30p & 7p; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20p/Church 7p

Announcements:

★SERVICE TIME CHANGE & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT!!

NEXT Sunday, December 24th, we will be transitioning to our morning worship service time! This will be our Christmas Eve service, at 10:30am. *We will NOT be having an evening service on Christmas Eve!* Christmas Eve is a great opportunity to invite friends, relatives, and co-workers to join you for church.

*A note to all parents: There will be NO Children's Ministry for the Christmas Eve service. Please know that you are welcome to use the Flex Room at the back of the sanctuary if at any point you need to remove your child from our gathering. One parent must be in the Flex Room with their child at all times.

★NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY: Our annual New Year's Eve Party will be in TWO WEEKS, on Sunday, December 31st, at Andy Wesley's house (1062 National Drive SE; Hebron). There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something for the party! The festivities will start at 6pm and last until midnight! EVERYONE is invited to join us for a fun night of games, food, and fellowship!

★LEGACY THEOLOGY PRACTICUM: In 4 weeks from tomorrow, starting on January 8 through March 11, 2024, we will be offering a 10-week course on "**Church History**" on Mondays from 6-9pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be studying the birth of the Church in Acts 2 in 30AD up to our present time of 2023. Our Christian heritage is filled to the brim with fascinating figures whose lives we can learn from. Church history also records the teaching, movements, and mistakes of Christians who held to the truth of the Word and sought to reflect the invisible God. For the past two-thousand years of our history, Christians have wrestled with Scripture. The stories of Polycarp, Athanasius, Irenaeus, Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, and John Wesley (just to name a few) help us to persevere in our faith during tough times and inspire us to live our lives in full for God's glory. We will study the major disputes of Heresy, such as the Council of Nicaea, that condemned Arianism in 325, the Council of Carthage that denounced Pelagianism in 418, and the Council of Chalcedon that rejected Eutychianism in 451. We also will study when Churches and Denominations begin. Please see the back of your sermon notes for more information about this course. Let Elder Richard know if you may be interested in this course so we can prepare a Syllabus for you. [(419)651-0053]

★FELLOWSHIP DINNER: We are having a Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us.