



Calvary Christian Fellowship Mennonite Church

Welcome to our Worship Service!

March 22, 2020

Devotional:----- Galen Kauffman

Message:----- Henry Nissley

Offering:----- School

Adult and Youth Verse: Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

Intermediate Verse: Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness. Romans 11:22

Junior Verse: And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. Exodus 24:17

Primary Verse: And when I see the blood, I will pass over you. Exodus 12:13

Preschool Verse: Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

▣ CHILDREN'S CORNER ○ ▣ ○ ▣

Surrounded By Gifts

No one listening to Sarah complain would have guessed that every day she was the recipient of more gifts than she could count. When she opened her eyes in the morning, there were always a pile of gifts sitting by her bed. All day long, in fact, she received one gift after another.

Yet strangely enough, Sarah took most of the gifts for granted. The only time she really thought about the gifts was when one didn't arrive...or when a friend got a gift that seemed better than hers.

On one particular afternoon, Sarah was feeling especially blue. A gift she'd been longing to have for a long time still hadn't arrived. She was surrounded by all the other gifts that had arrived—yet Sarah wasn't enjoying them. Instead, she was bemoaning the absence of the one gift she longed for.

Sarah had good reasons to want the gift too. Couldn't she serve the king—the giver of the gifts—much better if she had that gift? Wasn't it a good gift she longed for? Indeed, it was! Yet why, then, did it not come?

“Why so downcast, Sarah?” the question came from Sarah's sister, Mary.

“That gift I've been wanting still isn't here,” Sarah pouted.

Mary paused before replying, weighing her words carefully. “Sarah, do you trust the king?”

The question startled Sarah a little. Of course she trusted the king! Why the king had rescued her from prison. She'd vowed to serve Him with everything within her.

“Of course,” she replied.

“And did you not tell him your life belonged to him?”

Sarah nodded, and Mary continued.

“Then you've no cause to complain about the gifts.”

Sarah knew her sister was right. What a fool she'd been! What did it matter if that gift arrived anyway? If she needed this gift to complete the tasks the king had for her, he would send it. If not, then he must have something else for her to do. Either way, though, she'd been missing out on the joy of serving the king and giving thanks for the gifts she had been given.

Sarah gave her sister a hug, and scampered out of the room with a light heart again. She was surrounded by gifts—and it was time to start living like it.

<https://www.christianperspective.net/newsletter/surrounded-by-gifts>

Announcements:

- ✓ This Evening: Free Eve.
- ✓ Wednesday Evening: Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM
- ✓ Out of State Correspondence this week by: Galen & Doreen
- ✓ Plans are for school to be recessed for this week or until the board decides to resume. The craft sale and year-end program have been suspended for the time being. The board will continue to monitor the public health situation & will provide updates on school schedules as they are determined. Let any of the board know if you have any questions.

~BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES~

Happy Anniversary! (Today!) Mar. 22, Ralph & Jan 2002

Locked Down or Lifted Up?

Lessons from Paul in Prison Part 1 of 2

The recent “lockdown” of our normal lives continues to cause inconvenience, financial hardship, and disappointment to everyone. Markets imploding, plans cancelled, fear of the future, even the lack of toilet paper! In this situation, I believe we should try to encourage one another from the Word of God, and I believe that there are bright spots, however dim they may appear at this time.

In the book of Philippians, we find the Apostle Paul “making the best of a bad situation.” From a Roman prison he writes to the church at Philippi with joy as his recurring theme. Read chapter one and notice all the things that are his silver lining in the middle of a dark cloud. In the midst of his suffering, Paul used his time in “lockdown” to lift up his Christian family. Notice seven encouragements:

1) GIVE THANKS. – v. 3 “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you...” Even in the depths of a Roman prison, Paul was able to give thanks. Here I sit in the comfort of my modern home, with all my conveniences, plenty of food, a warm fire, and as of this moment my health. If I cannot find a reason to give thanks, then something is drastically wrong. God's blessings continue, even in the darkness, even when we don't acknowledge them. The warmth of the sun, the snow and rain, home and family, abundant food, good friends, and work that I enjoy, all are blessings that I dare not take for granted. Take a moment to reflect on the positive side of the ledger. Ask your family what they are grateful for and tell God about it. “In everything give thanks for

this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”(1Thess. 5:18).

2) ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY. – v. 6 “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ...” Paul encourages his readers with the fact that God has a continuing, broader purpose for each of their lives. What a blessing to know that I matter to God! I remember when my Dad would praise me for a job well done and the encouragement that brought. Some guy at the parts store would make a remark about his little helper and he would proudly claim that I was his right-hand man. What an encouragement for me to keep learning and growing to become a man! In the “busy-ness” of life, what is it you have left unsaid? In your household, who needs your encouraging words?

3) AFFIRM YOUR LOVE. – vs. 7-8 “... I have you in my heart ... For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.” My daughter has four children, the youngest of which has been difficult from the day he was born. That three-year-old offensive lineman is constantly obstinate during their hectic lifestyle of work, school, church and sports. My daughter shared that, when life as they knew it came to a halt and everyone was forced to stay home, little Parker is the happiest he’s ever been! He finally has everything he ever wanted: all of his loved ones in their proper place, at home. Don’t miss this opportunity to spend time with your family, and reaffirm your love. God has providentially given you some extra time to spend with your loved ones. Play a game, read a book, bake some cookies – make the most of it. Affirm your love with the gift of time.

4) PRAY SPECIFICALLY. – vs. 9-11 “And this I pray...” v. 4 “always in every prayer...” You can’t watch things fall down around you without feeling a sense of frustration and anxiety. Do you put a voice to it and pray? Instead of pacing the floor with frustration and anxiety, Paul found great comfort in praying for his spiritual offspring in Philippi. Although he was helpless to do anything for them himself, he asked God to do specific things in their lives. He prayed that they would grow in knowledge and discernment; that they would make good choices; and that they would continually do right, which glorifies God. (Wow! A model prayer for our government!) What are you asking God to do for your spouse? Your children? Your grandchildren? God often used plagues, pestilences, oppression, military defeat, hunger and thirst to bring His people back to Himself. (Example: Israel and the entire Old Testament.) It is often serious trouble that motivates us to pray. May this experience drive us to pray. ...**To be continued next week**

Don’t just GO to Church; BE the Church

Kit Pharo Pharo Cattle Co. Website: www.PharoCattle.com

Mission & Vision Statement Of: Calvary Christian Fellowship

Mission: To realize our need of Christ.

To help one another on life’s journey.

Vision: To surrender to Christ our Head, to walk in the Spirit, to love as Jesus loves.

To be a place where it’s safe to share failures, struggles, hopes, and dreams.

To encourage, and empower one another to find God’s purpose as we walk with Christ on our journey to Heaven.

To help the hurting find healing, and the lost experience salvation, in Christ.

To assist in physical needs among, and around us.