

The “Value Added” Life

By Mike Riley

A key phrase in today's business world is the phrase “value-added.” It simply means the value that an employee adds to any business operation's overall value and success. We have come to expect “value” in everything we purchase. No one wants an automobile that doesn't run, a house that offers no protection from the elements, or a chair in which we can't sit. If we possess anything that has little value attached to it, we simply repair it (if it's repairable) or replace it with something of equal value.

The same is true in the spiritual world. God has little use for a Christian who does not add “value” to His kingdom (cf. Matthew 25:14-30; John 15:1-6). In our Lord's teaching of judgment, all who were condemned had lost their usefulness. For example, the fishermen cast the useless fish away (Matthew 13:47-50). The one talent man was called an “unprofitable servant” (Matthew 25:30 KJV). The foolish virgins were shut out of the marriage festivities because they didn't serve the purpose for which they were selected (Matthew 25:1-13). The fig tree was cut down because it bore no fruit (Luke 13:6-9; cf. John 15:2; John 15:6).

It's easy for us as Christians to be lifted up with pride when God blesses us so richly. When this happens, we are likely to forget the basic reason for our existence as Christians (Deuteronomy 6:10-12; Isaiah 43:7; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Revelation 4:11). The inspired writer Paul expressed it this way in Romans 15:5-6:

“Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Brethren and friends, the bottom line is this: God expects us to be of value to His cause. We are to be fellow workers with God in fields ready to be harvested (1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 6:1; Matthew 9:37-38; John 4:35). The individual or church that has no usefulness is thoroughly condemned in God's word (2 Timothy 4:10; Revelation 2:1-5; Revelation 3:1-6; Revelation 3:14-19). This is why Paul urges us to engage in self-examination so we can determine whether or not we are useful in God's kingdom (2 Corinthians 13:5; cf. 2 Timothy 2:20-21).

Today, let's ask ourselves the following soul-searching questions:

Are we adding value to God's kingdom? (John 15:8; cf. Matthew 5:16; Philippians 1:11).

Are we setting forth the kind of example before others that we should? (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Are we busy preaching and teaching the gospel message to the lost? (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).

Our eternal destiny may very well hinge on the answers we give.



STERLINGTON
Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82
1095 Highway 2
Sterlington, Louisiana 71280
www.sterlingtoncoc.com

Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements- Wayne Fowler **Opening prayer**- Charles Fricke
Communion- Jerry McDonald **Closing Prayer**- Don DeLukie
Sermon- Don DeLukie

December 24th

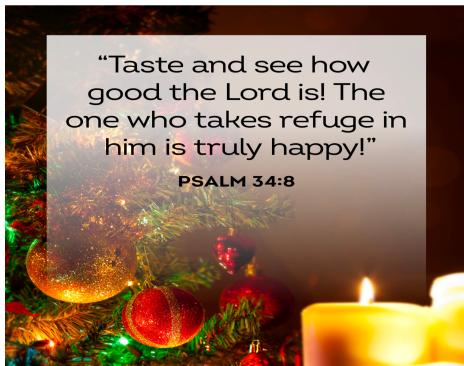
Announcements- Paul Simpson **Opening prayer**- John Chisley
Communion- Lyle Russell **Closing Prayer**- Jerry McDonald
Sermon- Don DeLukie

Announcements

—Potluck and Men's Meeting Today: After AM Services, will be a potluck followed by a Men's Meeting. **There will be no PM Services this evening.** All are invited to stay!

—Question & Answer Series: Our next Question and Answer Series will be scheduled when enough questions are collected. Give your questions to Don.

—Children's Home Collection: Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



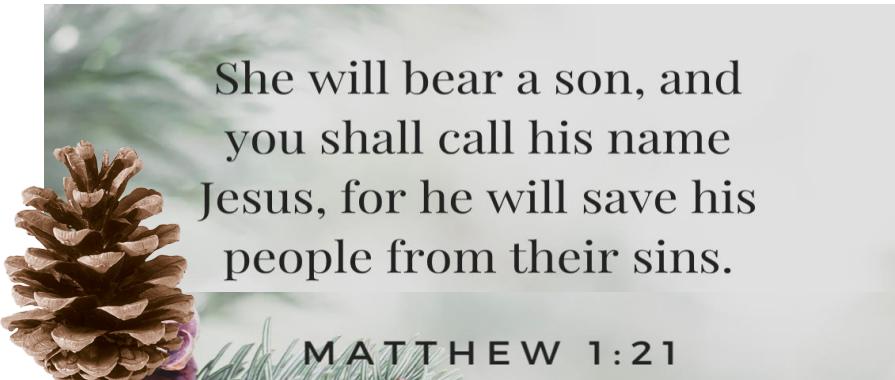
Please Pray For:

Ronnie & Dena White, Terry Whittington, Kathrine Simmons, Van Martinez, Billy & Carol Granger, Randy Frost, EK (Friend of Susie McGough), Katy Harris, Tommy Franklin, Jr & Patsy Clark, Dan Ross Jr, Mike Jones, Gena Granger, Carolyn A. Wilson.

Bereaved: Families of Sonny Williams, Mike Wiggins, Betty Woodhead, Peter Branch, Dawn Moore, Elizabeth Hollis, Kathy Isle, Billy Thomas, Vera Henry.

Continue to Pray For:

Joanne Randolph, Dwain & Bettye Flowers, Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James & Lorene Johnson, Bobby Barker, Gail Sewell, Ronnie Tatum, Cindy Smith, Renee Gee, Malea Zuber, Bobby Simmons, Tricia Muse, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.



December birthdays

- 5 - Joanie Franklin
- 14 - Wayne Fowler
- 15 - Jonah Scharf
- 20 - Vee Boren
- 22 - Brad Farrington
- 24 - Louvenia Dickson
- 26 - Matt Scharf
- 27 - Rick Cook
- 27 - Gary Guice
- 30 - Dwain Flowers

December anniversaries

- 5 - Dan and Ethel Ross
- 10 - Rick and Sandy Van Loon
- 18 - Gary and Sharon Harris
- 27 - Leo and Shirley Goodwin
- 28 - Tommy and Joanie Franklin

