

Greenvine Baptist Church Newsletter



When you are here
You are home

November 29, 2021

Karen and hope that you were able to be very thankful the last couple of days. What a great holiday that we can just take some time and give thanks for what God has given to us. Not just the spiritual blessings, but also the many physical, emotional and mental blessings that sometimes we take for granted.

Five of our grandchildren were here on Thanksgiving Day. We went around the table just saying what we are thankful for. You can imagine what came to light. Ages 2 to 13. Parents invited to list the things they were thankful for as well. The youngest was thankful for “mama.” The oldest was thankful for family and friends. We all agreed that we were so thankful for God and His Son, the lord Jesus Christ. We realized together that we need to know more of Christ day by day. I was thankful for another day to live here on earth.

That brings me to our next “power newsletter.

Even more “power.”

Philippians 3: 10 says, “I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Some think that this is a great metaphor that Paul uses and interprets it as if it were just a thought, not an attainable ideal. They would say that knowing Christ is something unattainable, just a passing notion of knowing more about God. Also that we would only have power to do the things that we feel important in this life, and to suffer when and only when it is completely necessary. We would call that liberal thinking that doesn’t want to truly understand what Paul is really trying to convey to the early believers in Asia Minor.

Paul wants to fill his mind with what knowledge is available about Christ. Paul, a man who sat at the feet of Gamaliel. Gamaliel was the chief teacher of the law and the prophets in and around Jerusalem at the time Paul was learning about Judaism and the principles of the law. It was the greatest privilege to learn from the master. Then it became Paul's responsibility to tell others what he had learned.

That is why in the book of Galatians, Paul says in his bio that he sat at the feet of Gamaliel. It would have been a great fact in his resume to tell others that his education was from the greatest teacher of the day, and that he was a fully learned man. However, in Galatians Paul writes that those things were counted as loss as he sees and understands who Jesus Christ is.

That is why one of the most educated men of the time in religion was more concerned about the knowledge of Christ than increasing in religion teachings. Paul realized that knowing Christ more and more was the way to understand all of the law and prophets that he had learned about in his earlier life.

There is in this verse the strong desire to "know" Christ. Since Paul knew and understood that Christ was, in fact, God; he understood that the knowledge of God, as Christ could not be fully understood while he was still on earth with a limited human mind.

He simply wanted to know more of Christ. That should be our goal as well. I want to know more of Christ. I guess you realize that it occurs when we study, understand and apply God's Word, the Bible, to our hearts, minds and bodies. Know Him more!

Paul also wanted to know the "power" of Christ's resurrection. That power of God that was so strong that raised the dead back to life. There must have been a great tension in the universe when Satan saw Christ die. Do you suppose he thought that he had won the battle for the minds of men and women? What a distance trouble in the spirit world.

However, because of God's great power (dynamite) He had the power of sin and death to be able to give life to the dead.

There is a section in Ephesians chapter 12 that address both of these ideas again. Verses 17 - 20 talk about the prayer that Paul had for those early believers. "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. Pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and even title that can be given, not only in this present age but also in the one to come."

Paul knew that the power that raised Christ from the grave was available to us as His followers. We are promised the power of His resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15 tells us that "if there is no resurrection of the dead, that even Christ was not resurrected, and if Christ is not resurrected from the grave, we are of all people, most to be pitied." He goes on to say that "Christ has been resurrected from the grave and He becomes an example to us who believe." The power of God not only raised Christ from the grave, but will one day resurrect our dead bodies to a newness of life.

That is what Paul wanted. He deeply desired to know Christ and the power of resurrection. In 1 Corinthians he even talked about the attainment of that resurrection. Paul knew that when he died, eventually his body would receive resurrection by the very power of God, Himself.

He also wanted to be included in the sufferings on this earth because of Christ. Know. Realize Power. Suffer for following Christ. In those days, there was much persecution of those early believers. Paul was willing, even desired to be so in tune with the Savior that if someone were to suffer for following Christ, Paul said, "Let it be me!" I will do what ever it takes to follow Jesus, even if it means my suffering and death.

He writes “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” He realized that following Christ might bring suffering and death, but he was willing and able. He was so in tune with who Christ was that Paul desired to be like Christ in everything, including suffering and death.

That is strong language. Willing to give up everything to follow Christ. That is the full meaning of those verses in Philippians 3.

Karen and I trust that this Advent season will remind you and your families the truth of following Jesus to the fullest of your strength so that you might have more knowledge of Him, experience the great power that He possesses, and not to waver, even in suffering. Then, eventually to experience the resurrection of the dead. Glorious. Wonderful. Awesome. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Blessings upon you and your family as you celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Jack & Karen

Upcoming Events

Bible Study

We will continue our study of Timothy the Wednesday December 1st.

Burton Bridge Meal

We will be serving and providing the meal for Burton Bridge meal this Friday December 3rd. Please let Deborah Stevens know if you can help by providing a dessert.

Christmas Brunch

We will meet at 9:30am on Sunday December 12 for brunch. We will not be cooking in the kitchen so please bring you dish hot to share.

Greenvine’s Girl’s of Grace

On Tuesday Dec 14th The Women will be meeting at Sandra Pulliam’s to make bags to take to our shut-ins . You can help by bringing items for the bags such as:

Toothpaste and brushes, combs, puzzle books, fuzzy socks, hard candies, snack crackers, etc.

Toy Drive

Burton Bridge is collecting gently used blankets and comforters, new unwrapped toys and condiments for the advent bundles. Please drop off donations at the church by December 13th

Christmas Eve Service

Candlelight service – 6pm on Christmas Eve

Prayer Requests

Jack and Karen's Nephew - Pray that he will listen to the Doctors and to his mother

Karen – Praise that her wrist is doing better and that she continues to heal

Brayden Lopez - Mental and Spiritual health

Please remember the Chapdelaine family in the loss of Robert

Please remember Debbie Reed and her family in the loss of her Aunt.

Debbie Reed - Recovery on her wrist and hip - Pray that the injections for her hip will help with the pain

Cliff Reed -Continue to recover from Back Surgery - Please pray his pain subsides

Please keep Becky and the Medellin family in your prayers for the loss of Juan

Brittany's mother Tracy for continued healing

Ricky Eckert recovering from a leg amputation.

Neal Lampe has come home. Please pray for continued healing

Please remember Linda Fogle and her family in the loss of Rick

Carolyn Cox -Pray for continued healing

Geri Smart's daughter has had her last chemo treatment. What a praise

Denny's Sister is in need of a Kidney Transplant

Becky's granddaughter Taylor who has Cystic Fibrosis and is having health issues

Oran Lambright, Jack and Karen's friend has come home and is recovering

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Sandra Carson's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues - Please remember Bob's family in the loss of his brother

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Lee Ehring's brother, Bill Hoot, is having health issues. Doctors have found a mass on his lungs but the biopsy results have not been received yet. He has lost his vision and is unable to talk. Please pray that the Doctors can find out what is happening and how to treat him. He is in a tremendous amount of pain

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse