

Sending Messages Through Worship

Long before e-mail and long before texts, people were sending messages. Solomon sent a message to Hiram, asking him to provide lumber for the building of the temple (1 Kings 5). Hiram answered with his own message, "I will do all you desire concerning the cedar and cypress logs" (1 Kings 5:8). John wrote about the message that came from God and had been declared to others: "... God is light and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). Later, he reminded readers of another message: "... we should love one another" (1 John 3:11).

Some messages are important. Take for example the messages we send when we engage correctly in worship. Think about four of these:

The Message to God. We send a message of respect. "Worship" literally means "to fall on the ground in front of." We figuratively fall at God's feet in recognition of His majesty. That respect is shown by doing exactly what God has shown He wants from us. Our message to God is, "We love You." We offer praise and adoration because of that love. Sadly, we send the wrong message when our singing is half-hearted and our minds are occupied by things other than worship.

The Message to the World. Our message is that it is right to worship God, no matter what others do. When we take the Lord's Supper we tell the world that we believe in His death and its benefit to us. We tell the world we will do it until He comes again.

The Message to Each Other. The message is, "We want to build up each other." We accept Paul's message in 1 Cor. 14:26, "Let all things be done for edification." We gladly sing, "Bind us together, Lord ..." And, we mean it!

The Message to Ourselves. We affirm, "This is where I ought to be. This is where I need to be. This is where I want to be." Our worship tells us, "This will help me face the challenges ahead and will get me closer to Heaven."

Let's be sure the messages we send are the right ones.

Read Ephesians 1:3.

- Allen Hahn, Graeber Road church of Christ, Rosenberg, TX -

Life offers many choices. Eternity offers two — what's yours?

News Notes

SYMPATHY: To Noni Scadden at the recent passing of her brother. No other details were known at the time of this writing.

COVERED DISH DINNER: TODAY about Noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our **afternoon worship at 2:00 p.m.** at the Church Building. Come and join us in these times of fellowship and worship.


CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to participate. Sewing skills not necessary. Come and help if you can.

TO HAVE A MEDICAL PROCEDURE: Elaine McClung will have a procedure **Thursday, March 6th** at Weirton Medical Center.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Will resume **Thursday, March 6th, 11:00 a.m.** This class is open to all.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, March 8th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbiana Church of Christ.

LADIES DAY: Next Saturday, March 8th at the Lake Milton Church of Christ, 16313 Milton Ave., Lake Milton, OH 44429. Speaker: **Marsha Robison** on the topic, "Create in me the heart of a Servant." Registration: 9:00-9:45 a.m. (breakfast pastries). Program: 10:00 a.m.-noon (lunch provided). Additional details on the bulletin board.

 **TIME CHANGE: Next Saturday, March 8th, Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour** before retiring for the night. Daylight saving time begins.

PANTRY: Canned fruit.

ON THE PRAYER LIST: At Home: Ed Wiersbicki, John Sprout, Peggy Linger, Randy Beagle, Bob McMahan, Scharlotte Jones, Dean Spencer, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox-Chester:** Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere:** Carolyn Carbone, 98 Orange Blossom Lane, Ranson, WV 25438. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432. **In Afghanistan area:** Michael Heath, son-in-law of Mike & Marcie Martin.

You Can't Buy What You Already Have

A boy was so impressed by the Washington Monument he wanted to buy it. He offered a security guard the dollar that was in his pocket. The security guard responded, "First, you can't buy this because it is not for sale. Second, you can't afford it if it was. Third, as an American citizen you already own it anyway."



Something similar can be said for the blessings of God for Christians. First, the blessings of God are not for sale. Second, if they were for sale we could not afford them. Third, as believers, we already own them. We cannot buy His blessings — we already have them!

- adapted from David Parker, *Virtues, Lifeway -*
(via Glad Tidings of Good Things, House to House)