

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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December 12, 2021

How Much Did It Cost?

"I will not offer...to Lord my God (that) which cost me nothing" (2 Sam. 24:24)

A lady in Sioux Falls said her husband gave her a dollar for her anniversary and said, "Here, go buy yourself a nice card." Another man walked into a bookstore which handles greeting cards. He smiled at the clerk and said, "Today is my wife's birthday." He browsed a bit, selected a very pretty card, handed it to her and waited for her reaction. "It's lovely," she said. The man took the card out of her hand, placed it back in the rack and said, "That was your birthday gift for this year." Again he smiled at the clerk and they both left.

I was stunned when I read these stories. In contrast, King David once had the opportunity to give a gift to God which cost him nothing. He was interested in buying Araunah's threshing floor in order that he might build an altar to the Lord. Araunah, who owned the threshing floor, not only was willing to give it to David, he was also willing to give him everything he needed for the sacrifices. But David refused. He said, "No, but I will buy it of you for a price; I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing" (2 Sam. 24:24).

As a child I remember church members who would put a dollar in the collection plate and take out change. Still, their gifts were very generous because they had so little. Had some wealthy person given them large sums to place in those baskets, their gifts would not have meant as much to God because they would have cost them nothing.

Have we lost the desire to sacrifice? Many people want an easy and undemanding Christianity. A bare minimum is preferred by some and mediocrity by others. To give our best, to dig deep into our resources, or to be involved in every good work may not be the course we want to follow.

How much did God's gift to us cost? What if He had chosen to acknowledge that we were hopelessly lost and needed salvation but did nothing about it? But, He didn't do that. He gave us His best. Just as He gave heaven's best, He requires from us our best. A gift that costs us nothing is shallow and unacceptable because it has no value. Do I really want to try to give to the Lord my God that which cost me nothing

Al Behel

Other News

-**Carolyn Collier** has been suffering a lot of pain. Please keep her and Phil in your prayers.

-**A special thanks** to Tracey and Melanie for organizing and all the ladies who assisted in decorating tables and other activity of our wonderful fellowship dinner and Christmas party last Sunday afternoon. A special thanks to Dave Garrett, Jacob, and Azlin for enjoyable entertainment.

-Al and Linda will be away on Sunday and Jacob Forman will speak in Al's absence. Danny will teach Al's Bible class on the book of Acts.

-Online worship for those who cannot be with us in person is available at our website: greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com or on our Facebook page.

Food Contact For Month: Polly Cline

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson 865-924-1067

Sermon Topics: A.M.— Jacob Forman will speak
P.M.— Jacob Forman will speak

Archived sermons and Al's Blogs available at albehel.com

Our Known Sick

-**June McGowen**, is in Pigeon Forge Nursing Home. Her condition has deteriorated significantly over the past few months.

-**Linda Valentine**— battling cancer.

-**Anna Ruth Franklin**— Prayers for several health issues.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-Keep **Tracey's dad and mom, Ron and Judy Pitts**, in your prayers. Their address is: 313 Monticello Rd., Franklin, TN 37064

-**Treavor Hayes**, 7 year old grandson of Marc and Sue is receiving treatment through a port which has been installed to make his treatment easier. He has a tumor on optic nerve. Please keep him in prayer.

-**George Tolliver's sister, Mossie Simpson**, is battling COPD. She is staying with her son. Prayers still needed.

-Shannon Wade requests prayers for **Harley Tucker**, who is a 24 year old friend of their family. She just started chemo for breast cancer. She lives in MS.

-**Priscilla Dick** has completed her chemotherapy and is doing well.

-**Bill Pierce**, father of **Carol Kizer** (wife of Nelson), has been placed in Smoky Mtn. Rehab Center in PFs. Please keep this wonderful family in prayer.

-**Tricia Hayes'** mother, Debbie Odham, has been diagnosed with leukemia with only months to live. Her father is also struggling with COPD and is in critical condition. Please keep Tricia and her family in prayer.

To Our Visitors: We love having our visitors. You come from many states and often other countries. It is wonderful that God's family is big and shares a common bond in Christ. Your presence here is an encouragement to our local members and to other visitors as well. Thank you for being part of our worship and we hope you will come again soon.

Did You Know?

- **The Bible was written in three languages.** These languages are Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, which is the language the original readers spoke. A few sections of the Old Testament was written in Aramaic (Ezra and Daniel). The Old Testament was also translated into Greek, called the Septuagint. The New Testament was written in Greek.
- **The longest book in the Bible is Jeremiah.** The shortest book is 3 John. Jeremiah said, "But if I say, 'I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name,' his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in. Indeed, I cannot" (Jeremiah 20:9).

Sunday Adult Class

A Study in Acts

Al Behel

Teen Class

Jacob Forman

Wednesday Night Class

Danny Cline—*Colossians*

Monday Night Ladies Study

"O To Be Like Thee"

Polly Cline—*Ladies Bible Class*

Each Monday Night 6:45-7:45

Follow Email Instructions

Building Loan Balance

\$653,326.74

Additional contributions to building fund are appreciated

Times of Services

Sunday A.M.

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 PM