

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
acbehel@gmail.com

Vol. XXV. No. 04

January 23, 2022

God Is So Good!

Sometimes we sing, "God is so good. He's so good to me!" And we used to pray as children, "God is great, God is good, let us thank Him for this food...." I'm really glad that our God is good and that everything He does is good.

Even though He is good, God often gets blamed for bad things. Someone we love dies, we lose a job, we get passed by for a promotion, or we lose our health. We wonder, "Does God really care? Does my struggle make a difference to Him?" And God gets bad press.

How do we know that God is good? What are the evidences of His goodness toward us? How far do we have to look to see the presence of the hand of God? Several things come to mind as I think of the goodness of God.

First, I see the goodness of God in the beauty of the world He has made for us to enjoy. There is incredible beauty all around us. The Master Artist has painted a mural in the sky, a master-piece on every mountain and in every valley, and has set before us the glory of a universe so magnificent we cannot comprehend it. As King David said, "When I consider the heavens, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained, what is man that Thou art mindful of him?"

I see the goodness of God in His unmatched love for us. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 2:16). Can you fathom the depth of God's love? Love so powerful that none of us can look on Calvary and comprehend that moment without crying out with the Centurion in charge of the crucifixion, "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

God's goodness is further demonstrated in the continual flow of His grace. Forgiveness alone is not enough. We need the grace of God every day because we are constantly challenged by Satan's powerful temptations. He doesn't give up easily. We need to win. We must win! His grace enables us to overcome sin's destructive power. John reassures us that, "From the fulness of His grace we have all received grace upon grace" (John 1:16).

Finally, the goodness of God is seen in His judgment. The apostle Paul tells us that God's judgment is "based on truth" (Romans 2:2). We will be judged by our own actions (2 Corinthians 5:10). God is not influenced by false testimony or the opinions of others. He sees each of us clearly, as we really are, and His judgment is unwavering. Yet, since no one is without sin His judgment is tempered with grace toward those who are faithful

—Al Behel

Other News

-Skip and Esther Stewart—have been struggling for the last week with an upper respiratory infection. Their covid tests were negative. Esther reports that she is feeling some better.

-Marc and Sue Hayes—had covid during last couple of weeks. We are thankful that both are improving.

-Dave and Helen Swentzel have been diagnosed with Covid again. This is their second time to have the illness. Pray they will recover quickly.

-Tom Fussell—His blood pressure and sodium levels are doing better. They have an appointment in Nashville on Monday with his PCP as a follow-up.

-Raja, our missionary in India, is now suffering from Covid along with 16 other church members.

-Online worship: greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com or FB page.

Food Contact For Month: Poliy Cline

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.— "Eyes On Jesus, Walk of Faith" (Matt. 14:22-33) Al
P.M.— Mark Haynes will lead worship

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 hm 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.

-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.

-Larry Sanderson, Al's brother-in-law, is losing his eyesight. Doctors are trying to determine if he had a blood clot or a stroke. Please keep Larry and Helen in your prayers.

-Emma Oliver, girl friend of Al and Linda's grandson, received an MRI report that revealed some abnormal developments in a portion of her brain. She has passing out and falling. She is to have further tests at Vanderbilt later in the month.

FROM OUR LADIES: Our next fellowship dinner will be postponed for a few weeks along with our monthly meeting. We hope to resume very soon.

We sometimes sing, "When the roll is called up yonder I'll be there!" I wonder why some Christians think they will enjoy being there when they find so little joy in being with other believers in worship and Bible study. What makes us think we'll enjoy heaven if we don't find assembling together with the Lord the most exciting part of the week.

A young Christian, upon entering the church building on Sunday morning was greeted by one of the deacons who said, "Well, Henry, I see you are out bright and early to serve the Lord!" Henry replied, "No. On the contrary, my motive for being here is to worship the Lord. I have been serving Him all week." (Ouch!!)

Sunday Adult Class

A Study in Acts

Al Behel

Teen Class

Jacob Forman

Wednesday Night Class

Danny Cline—Colossians

Monday Night Ladies Study

Resumes Mon., January 10

Topic: "O To Be Like Thee"

Mondays, 6:45 pm

Teacher: Polly Cline

Building Loan Balance

\$639,375.84

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