

Great Smoky Mountains Messenger



A Publication of the Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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God Is All That We Lack . . . And More

“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:25)

As our perfect and infinite creator, God is everything that we are not. He is the Answer to our every question, the Sufficiency who can supply all our needs. Perhaps our greatest need, then, is to recognize our need and to seek in God the perfection that we don't find in ourselves. He is all that we lack...and He is even much more than that.

If there is one thing that is obvious about us, it is that we are incomplete. Whether we speak of our needs and our longings or we put it in terms of our tendency toward growth and development, somehow we are always using language that implies our imperfection. We are, as we say, “works in progress.” There are things about us that we need but do not yet have.

Whatever these things are that we need, God is all of these. There is no necessity that He cannot meet; there is no hole in our hearts that He cannot fill. God is everything that we lack.

But in a sense, God is also what we lack. There is nothing that we really need except God! Whatever other needs we may think we have, these are but manifestations and reminders of that which is our only true need. We were made for fellowship with our Creator. Without that, we'd not be content even if we had all the rest of the world combined. But if we DO have that, we find that we're able to do without, if necessary, any of the other things we thought we had to have, including even physical life itself. Our having been created by God means simply that God is all that we truly HAVE to have. Anything else is a bonus.

But there is, in fact, a great deal of bonus in God's dealing with us. As we've said, He is all that we lack, and He is also much MORE. One of the most marvelous aspects of God's nature is His bounty. He is a God whose grace super-abounds and overflows. When we drink at His fountain, He not only quenches our thirst, but He gives us additional gifts. We are told that He is ***“able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think”*** (Ephesians 3:20). Our Maker is a God who takes great delight in surprising us with the riches of His infinite goodness. ***“How completely satisfying to turn from our limitations to a God who has none”*** (A. W. Tozer) — Gary Henry



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Please Remember/Pray For:

Patsy Bevis
Ruth Byrne
Trevor Hayes
Kenny Gross
Les Jewell
The family of Shawn Molloy
Joe Angelo (friend of David and Rita Garrett) - Undergoing treatment for lymphoma and other health issues.

Sue Mercer
Skip Stewart
Heath Tolliver
Larry & Linda Valentine
Kyle & Samantha Williams Family
Howard Yates



One-On-One With Jesus at Jacob's Well

In the Gospel of John, chapter 4, Jesus and his disciples were traveling through Samaria when they stopped at Jacob's Well. The well was located in Sychar near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph (Gen. 33:19; Josh. 24:32). It was believed that Jacob himself dug the 106 foot deep well, which is why it bears his name.

In John 4:6, the text indicates that Jesus was weary from His journey, and He sat down by the well while his disciples went into the nearby town to buy food. At about noon, a Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well. Jesus asked her for a drink, and she was surprised that he, a Jewish man, would ask her, a Samaritan woman, for water (John 4:7-9).

The conversation that followed between Jesus and the Samaritan woman is one of the most famous stories in the Bible. Jesus told her that he could give her "living water," which she believed was physical water, not spiritual. While the woman was skeptical at first, as the discussion continued, she came to see Jesus as the Messiah the Samaritans were waiting for. -- Dale J. Babinsky

- ◆ Tues., January 30, 2024, Men's Bible class at 6:30 pm.
- ◆ Sun., Feb. 4—Potluck following AM service.
- ◆ Sun, Feb. 4—Men's Business Meeting following Potluck.
- ◆ Sun, Feb. 4—Women's Meeting following Potluck.
- ◆ Sun., Feb. 11—Baby shower for Ethan and Caroline Memolo at 3 pm.



Have something for the bulletin? Please give updates to Dale or Leah by Thursday.

<p><u>Pantry Needs</u></p> <p>Paper Products</p> 	<p><u>Food Assistance Program Lead for January</u></p> <p>Tracy Wade</p> 	<p><u>Current Building Loan Balance</u></p> <p>\$413,476.92</p> 
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God's Plan of Salvation

- Hear the Gospel, Romans 10:17
- Believe the Gospel, John 8:24
- Repent of Sins, Luke 13:3
- Confess Jesus as God's Son, Matt. 10:32
- Baptized to wash away sins, Acts 2:38
- Faithful 'til death, Revelation 2:10

Today's Sermons

- ◆ AM —Overcoming Worry
- ◆ PM — How Do We See Jesus?

Check out the sermon archives on our website at
www.gsmchurchofchrist.com

Please come back and worship with us in Spirit and in Truth—John 4:24