



w e l c o m e

"Now I bring the first fruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me." Deuteronomy 26:10

CCC staff

Pastors: Charlie Bethel, Wayne Carson, Jake Rosen

Administrative Assistant: Gina Edwards

Church Office Hours: Tue.-Thu. 9 AM - 4 PM

1 January 2012 | Tevet 6 5772

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Weekly Operating Budget: \$4,500
Dec. 25 General Offering: \$2,517.61

The offering box is located in the hallway. CCC gives 15% of its regular offering to missions. Any additional offerings to missions should be a sacrifice beyond your regular commitment to the ministry of Clayton Community Church.

Happy New Year!

It is Lord's Supper Sunday! On the first Sunday of every month, we devote a vital portion of our Sunday morning to communion. If you are familiar with the practice and are a believer in Jesus please join in, but don't feel like you need to do it because the rest of the people are. We believe worshipping God is best done with understanding. Feel free to participate or not as the Spirit leads.

Would you like to know about Clayton Community Church? Please ask one of the Ushers for our Welcome booklet. Children are dismissed to their Sunday school classes at 11 a.m. The cry room is available for those with infants who need to be fed and cuddled. It's located to your right as you enter the sanctuary. Nursery is available for infants through 2 1/2-year-olds on the bottom floor of the Education Wing. Worship Bags (crayons & paper) are available during the service. Shalom!

Jesus' Christmas Gifts to You

Part II ~ Points 13-24 continued from last week's bulletin.
Excerpts from *The Grace of God* by William MacDonald



When a person becomes a Christian, he at once becomes fabulously wealthy--not wealthy in material things, which last only for this life, but wealthy in spiritual blessings, which endure forever.

The expression "the riches of his grace" is used by Paul to describe inexhaustible treasures. They are all lavished upon the sinner who trusts in Christ.

You see, when a person is converted, he receives Christ, and in receiving Him, he receives every good thing that God can give. All the wealth of heaven is found in Him.

In giving Christ, God has given the greatest of all gifts. And since He has already given the greatest, He will not withhold any lesser gift. *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)*

What then are some of the treasures that belong to the person who has trusted Jesus Christ?

13. He is complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10). This means that he has, in Christ, all that he needs to make him fit for heaven. In fact, because he is in Christ, he is as fit for heaven as God can make him. He might live a life of faithfulness and devotion to Christ for many years after his conversion, but this will not make him any more fit for heaven. It will increase his enjoyment of heaven and his rewards in heaven. But his fitness for heaven depends entirely on his being in Christ, and nothing can improve on that perfect position.

14. The believer is a child of God (John 1:12). He can look up into the face of the God of the universe and call Him "my Father." No relationship in the world can compare with being a child of the King. In addition, he becomes a member of God's world-wide family. All true Christians are now his brothers and sisters in Christ. These people are the salt of the earth, and to enjoy their fellowship is one of the great joys of living.

15. He is adopted as a son of God (Galatians 4:4-7). Not only is he a child in the family, but he is also an adult son. He is no longer under legal bondage but is treated like a mature person, with all the privileges and responsibilities of a mature member of the family. Grace could have done less than this; it could have simply delivered men from hell. "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Romans 5:20).

16. The believer is loved by God as Christ is loved by God. We would not dare to say such a thing unless it was clearly stated in the Bible. It seems too astonishing to be true. But there it is in the high-priestly prayer of our Lord Jesus: "Thou. . . hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." (John 17:23b) "Dear, so very dear to God, I could not dearer be; The love wherewith He loves His Son, Such is His love to me." And we might add, "Such love passes knowledge."

(continued on reverse)

17. The child of God receives eternal life (John 5:24). Eternal life means the life of the Lord Jesus. It is not something the Christian receives when he dies; it is his possession the moment he believes on Christ. And it will never end. It is more precious than rubies, and all the things you could desire are not to be compared to it.

18. The saint is an heir of God and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ (Romans 8:17). All that God owns is to be shared with His own. It seems incredible; yet it is absolutely true that the humblest believer can say, "All things are mine, and I am Christ's, and Christ is God's." See I Corinthians 3:22, 23. If a man were to give all the substance of his house for this blessing, it would utterly be despised.

19. The believer has access to God in prayer (Ephesians 2:18). At any moment of the day or night, he may have audience with the Sovereign of the universe. Men of this world count it a distinct privilege to be received by a king or president once in a lifetime. How much greater is the privilege of God's children!

20. He becomes the object of the Lord's constant care as Advocate and High Priest (I John 2:1; Hebrews 10:21, 22). What a marvel--to think that Christ is ceaselessly at work in heaven on behalf of His own, silencing the accuser, pleading the merits of His atoning work, and ministering grace to His people for every time of need!

21. The Christian is a priest to God (I Peter 2:5, 9). He is privileged to offer up spiritual sacrifices--his person, his praise, and his possessions. And he is given the unspeakable honor of showing forth the praises of the One Who called him out of darkness into His marvelous light.

22. God's child is a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20, R.V.). If men on earth are proud of their nationality, how much more can the Christian rejoice in the fact that heaven is his native land and that he is here and now an ambassador of the King (II Corinthians 5:20).

23. The believer is destined to be glorified with Christ. Of all his blessings, this is perhaps the most amazing. Every child of God is destined to be with Christ and like Him forever. The glory which God gave to the Lord Jesus as reward for His wonderful work of redemption--this glory Christ shares with His people (John 17:22). This truth is so wonderful that language seems insufficient to describe it. But it makes men worshippers!

24. The Christian will one day be manifested as a son of God (I John 3:2). The world at the present time does not understand him. It does not appreciate him. It does not know who he really is. But when Christ returns in power and great glory, His people will return with Him. A wondering universe will then realize that the Christians it formerly scorned were actually the sons of God. And these are just a few of the priceless treasures which God has prepared for those who love Him. Throughout eternity, He will be revealing to His people the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward them through Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:7). Think of that! It will take all eternity for God Himself to reveal the treasures He has laid up for His children. Until then, the best we can do is to say with the apostle Paul, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). ■

ongoing weekly events

- Adult Sunday School: Sunday before church, 9:30-10:30 AM in the CCC fellowship hall. Open to all.
- Kibbutz Girls: Monday, 6:30-8:30 PM at CCC. Geri Weis, 314-849-2977
- Chesterfield Small Group: (On break until Jan. 10.) Jake Rosen & Jack Scharr, 314-504-8539
- South City Small Group: Tuesday, 7 PM. Roger & Debbie Phillips, 314-781-8482
- Beit Chesed Messianic Congregation Shabbat Service: Friday, 7:15 PM. Jake Rosen, 314-504-8539, www.beitchesed.com

🌀 points of interest

- 🌀 "Raise the Roof"- Donations are being collected to replace the fellowship hall roof. Envelopes are available in the hallway. Drop your donation in the offering box. The amount needed is \$14,000; the total is approximate and will vary depending on market conditions. So far \$5,333 has been received, with less than \$9,000 left to raise!
- 🌀 **One-on-One Discipling** is a mentoring program to get one grounded in the basics of the Christian faith. Contact Barb Foy or Jack Scharr for more information, or fill out a discipling information card and drop it in the offering box. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I commanded you."* (Mat. 28:19-20)

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem & the Middle East

Our Soldiers Stateside
Ft. Bliss, TX - Nate Wagoner
Westpoint - Mark Allen

Our Soldiers Overseas:
Afghanistan - John Oros, Joe Seavey
South Korea - Joshua Hudson
Israeli Army - Sarah Mizrachi, Liel Meyuseff

If you have updates to this list, please contact the CCC office. To join the prayer chain, e-mail the church and we will send you an invitation to the CCC Prayer Warriors Yahoo Group.