

## FROM THE PREACHERS DESK

### The Best Things in Life Are Free?

We've all heard the saying, "The best things in life are free," but is that true? I think that it's both true and false.

I would modify the saying to say, "Few of the best things in life are free."

Think about it. Now name some good things that are free. One might say, "To behold the beauty of nature is free." Is that free? Because the last time I checked, it costs me quite a lot to enjoy the beauty of nature.

I have to spend money on gas to get access to nature. I have to take time away from other priorities in order to enjoy nature. To really enjoy nature the way I prefer to enjoy nature, I have to have comfortable hiking shoes, a backpack full of snacks and water, sunglasses, Chapstick, and, depending on how much fun, knee and/or ankle braces. Enjoying nature does not come cheap to me. It is certainly not free.

How about love? Isn't love free? Not by any good definition it's not. Real love means a sacrifice of time and effort. By no means is it free.

Do you see what I mean? I'm not trying to be facetious. I just don't like sayings that aren't true.

You might say, "It all depends on how you define the word, 'free'." That's true. If you define free as "not costing money," you might be able to make a case, but I still think it would be a pretty hard case to make in regards to the "best things."

Here's a good question: Why am I going on about this? What does it matter? It matters because there's a false teaching in our world today that there is no cost to follow Christ. If you read the Bible, you would never believe that it costs nothing to follow Jesus. So why do people believe things like this? Simple. It's because it's what they *want* to believe. Getting people to believe what is true versus what they want to believe can be a real challenge.

It's a simple case to defend that following Jesus comes at great cost. For instance, Jesus says in Matthew 16:24-25,

*...Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, (continued)→*

*he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*

Take note of the costs listed by Jesus – self-denial, enduring persecution / difficulty, obedience, trading the life you desire for the life God desires for you.

It is a very high cost. And Jesus wants us all to consider the cost of following Him before we endeavor to do so. Part of His teaching about discipleship in Luke 14:28, He says,

*...sit down and calculate the cost...*

His meaning was that after you consider what it will cost you to follow after Him, you either are willing to pay that cost or you're not. He wants you to follow. He doesn't want you to say that you will follow, but then not follow.

Teachings like this from Jesus can be a bit confusing when we consider our salvation. We sing songs like, "Jesus Paid It All." Which begs the question, "If Jesus paid it all on the cross at Calvary," as the song says, then what price am I paying?

It's a fair question. It's not hard to understand. Jesus did pay the price for our salvation and it's true that we contribute nothing to our own salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).

But the saying is also true that salvation is free, but it is not cheap. It might help to think of your salvation in a similar sense to being given a job. Sometimes we have to earn a job or struggle to be hired for a job. That's not what I mean. I mean to be *given* a job.

To be given a job is to be given something for free, meaning that it was not something you had to pay for and it was not something that you had to work for, but though it was given freely, it was given with an *expectation*. The expectation is the cost that Jesus calls us to consider.

I hope this helps. Personally, I remind myself almost every day that my efforts to follow Jesus are not what gives me salvation, but are rather my grateful response to the salvation that He has provided.

Much love!

Wes LeFlore (918) 607-8489

## PRAYER LIST

**Kevin Hunt**—son of Carol Norris, continues to have health issues and has been moved to a care home in Wichita. Please keep Kevin as well as Carol in your prayers.

**Hailee Moyer**—daughter of Maria Moyer and granddaughter of Marsha Dugan, was in a bad car accident and needs prayers for healing. She is waiting to get into a long term rehab facility. She still has a long recovery path and needs prayers. She would love Christmas cards and cards of encouragement. You can send them to Hailee Moyer, 412 S. F Street, Wellington, KS 67152

**Melinda Miller**—wife of Chris Miller, saw her doctor and was given the good news that she is cancer free! She has a few tests and some radiation ahead for her. Keep the prayers coming! Her address is Melinda Miller, 14 LaCrumbre Close, Tauranga 3110, New Zealand. Remember there is extra postage for cards sent out of the US.

**Dorothy Lauterbach**—is ill and needs our prayers. She is in Botkin Care Home. Their address is 102 W. Botkin, Wellington KS 67152.

## EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY

We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Gene Deffenbaugh. Gene passed away Tuesday. A graveside service will be held at a later date. Keep his family in your prayers.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Mary Ann Hennig—1st Elise Wartick—3rd Joshua Garver—4th  
Joe Church—6th Shirley Stoner—6th Kayden Clark—9th  
Jordyn Clark—15th Parker Dodds—17th Patsy Pierce—17th  
Ada Francisco—26th Eloise Francisco—26th Martha Howell—27th  
Lonnie Bennett—29th Crystal Shields—30th Merle Willey—30th

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

### December

Dec 20 Linda Wartick

Dec 27 Kaylee Jenkins

### January

Jan 03 Jill DeJarnett

Jan 10 Lynette Turney

Jan 17 Linda Wartick

Jan 24 Kaylee Jenkins

Jan 31 Darlene Cooney

### February

Feb 07 Helen Norris

Feb 14 Lynette Turney

Feb 21 Linda Wartick

Feb 28 Kaylee Jenkins

See Sarah or Darlene if you can help!



**Royal Revelations, Part VI: Jesus Reveals The Cost**  
Matthew 16:24-26

Master of :

- Your
- Your
- Your
- Your
- Your

There is a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

3 Costs of Christianity

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Don't be \_\_\_\_\_.

Be like \_\_\_\_\_.

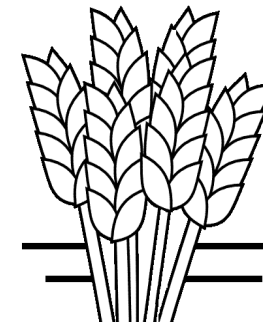
Notes:

**THOSE WHO SERVE**

SUNDAY A.M.	13-Dec	20-Dec	27-Dec
<b>Elder in Charge</b>	T. Norris	T. Norris	T. Norris
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	L. Lewis	A. Shields	W. Pierce
<b>Song Leader</b>	D. Pierce	D. Pierce	D. Pierce
<b>Communion Prayer</b>	E. Newberry	T. Norris	R. Harris
<b>Contribution Prayer &amp; Collection</b>	A. Hines J. DeJarnett	A. Hines J. DeJarnett	A. Hines J. DeJarnett
<b>Ushers</b>	J. Willson L. Turney	J. Willson L. Turney	J. Willson L. Turney
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	T. Norris	T. Norris	T. Norris
<b>Deacon in Charge</b>	A. Shields	A. Shields	A. Shields
SUNDAY A.M.	03-Jan 2021	10-Jan 2021	17-Jan 2021
<b>Elder in Charge</b>	R. Harris	R. Harris	R. Harris
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	D. Pierce	A. Shields	B. Turney
<b>Song Leader</b>	K. Dodds	K. Dodds	K. Dodds
<b>Communion Prayer</b>	M. Kline	E. Newberry	T. Norris
<b>Contribution Prayer &amp; Collection</b>	N. Bradbury P. Dodds	N. Bradbury P. Dodds	N. Bradbury P. Dodds
<b>Ushers</b>	J. Rayl J. Church	J. Rayl J. Church	J. Rayl J. Church
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	R. Harris	R. Harris	R. Harris
<b>Deacon in Charge</b>	K. Dodds	K. Dodds	K. Dodds

**Note concerning COVID-19:** During this month we are asking all public non-speaking participants to wear a face covering while performing their duties. This applies to ushers and to the men collecting our contribution. If you are unable to fulfill your assignment for any reason, please call the Deacon in Charge.

<b>ELDERS</b>	Marvin Kline	<b>DEACONS</b>	Kevin Dodds	Aaron Hines
Rex Harris	Tom Norris	Leroy Lewis	Mike Neal	
Ed Newberry		David Pierce	Alan Shields	
<b>MINISTER</b>	Wes LeFlore			



*“Reaching Inward, Outward  
Upward, Downward”*

**Wellington  
Church of Christ**

217 W. 13th St. Wellington, KS 67152 620-326-7511

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

December 20, 2020

Call to Worship

Prayer

Song #595 “I Come to the Garden Alone”

Song #991 “This Is My Father’s World”

Song #896 “Ivory Palaces”

Communion Prayers

Contribution Prayer

Contribution Collection

Lesson

Song #674 “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

Closing Prayer

*Every Sunday during the sermon we offer Children’s Church to boys and girls ages 3 years through 2nd grade. They will meet in the study for stories, crafts and learning about Jesus.*