

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1192

December 3, 2017

I Corinthians 12:31, “*But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.*”

December is here and there is much focus upon gifts for the holiday season. There is no shortage of ads in the mail and email alike, promoting deals and sales. Most people are trying to obtain the best gifts possible for their loved ones. Every year there is something that is popular people try to obtain.

Paul told the brethren at Corinth to covet earnestly the best gifts. This is the only time in the Bible we are commanded to covet. Normally the word covet is used in a way that it’s a sin for us to covet. We should not only covet the best gifts, but do so earnestly.

The gifts Paul is speaking of are not physical gifts one can purchase, but spiritual gifts. He lists the gifts he is talking about in I Corinthians 12:28-30, “²⁸*And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.* ²⁹*Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers*

Munfordville Church of Christ
104 Back St — P.O. Box 322
Munfordville, KY 42765
(270) 524-3345
www.munfordvillechurchofchrist.com

Marty Edwards, Minister
577 Possum Trot Road
Hardyville, KY 42746
(270) 528-1298
martywedwards@gmail.com

Sunday 9 AM & 4 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

of miracles? ³⁰Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?”

Not all of these gifts are available today. Some ceased when miracles ceased. The gifts that we do have and are able to do, Paul said to covet these. We are to have an earnest desire for these such as teaching, etc.

After Paul tells us to covet earnestly the best gifts, he then proceeds to show us a more excellent way. The next chapter talks about love and its virtues. This is the more excellent way beyond the best gifts Paul talked about.

If we want to give the best gift possible, have love for one another. It’s the defining quality of Christians. Jesus said in John 13:35, “*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*”

The greatest gift of love was when God gave His son to die for us. That was the only way we had hope of salvation. No greater gift of love exists. He gave His son so we could be saved and called the sons of God. What great love it is to actually make us sons of God. I John 3:1, “*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*”

The world doesn’t know us. The LORD does, for we are His sons.

—Marty Edwards❖

“Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it.”

—Numbers 18:29

News

—Continue to remember **Jewell Watkins, Jean Coffey, Alice Thrasher, Steve Seaton, and Brad Terry. Elaine Quigley** is having trouble with a ruptured disk.



December Birthdays

Alice Thrasher - Dec. 2 ❖ Stuart Crabtree - Dec. 4
Shirley Edwards - Dec. 5 ❖ Lillian Riffle - Dec. 8
Mike Burd - Dec. 10 ❖ Andrew Crabtree - Dec. 21



For many people, this is the most stressful time of year. So many want to make the holidays story-book perfect. There is never going to be that perfection in a sin-filled world. There is perfection to be had, but it's after this life.

People become depressed because the holidays do not reach the level of perfection they want. People become overloaded with stress because they are trying to decorate and prepare huge meals. They add financial stress because of trying to buy so much for people.

We do not celebrate this time of year religiously because it was never done so in the Bible. We have a weekly worship and remember the death of Jesus with the Lord's Supper. Seeing how such a huge, yearly, man-made holiday causes people so much stress and pressure, it's no wonder the LORD has us to come together weekly in a simple worship of Him.

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Sunday, November 26, 2017		
Classes	16	I Timothy 4:1-9
Preaching	24	Joshua 24
Contribution	\$703.00	
Evening	23	Jonah 2:1-4:11
Wednesday, November 29, 2017		
Classes	16	Revelation 2:12-29

Visitors— Nov 24 (PM) Margaret Sandige (Hardyville, KY)

Bible Quiz

What star will be given to those who overcome?

Last Week's Answer—Hidden manna (Revelation 2:17)

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Even our secular holidays should be simple and basic. I feel that we as Christians should not get caught up in this never-ending yearly challenge to buy the greatest and latest. The writer in Hebrews 13:5 summed it up well, "*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*"

—Marty Edwards❖

—God's Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)