Welcome



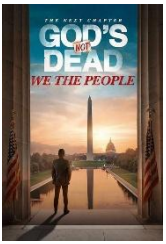
Sunday 10:30am & 6pm

Coffee & Donuts Fellowship before Sunday Morning Service

Sunday Services Streamed Live

Wednesday 6pm

NewDayClaremore.church



Movie Night Tonight - 6pm

GOD'S NOT DEAD 4: WE THE PEOPLE

Come early for snacks, find your seat, movie starts at 6pm.

Wednesday Bible Study – The Court of Heaven – 6pm

Our final lesson on this series. Small meal 5:30pm

The holy spirit is the *paraclete*, the comforter, which means he is the legal aid to shows us how to maneuver in the Courts of Heaven.



Shoeboxes Update

Continue praying for their safe delivery to some child, and the ministry to those children, that these boxes may open a door. Prayers for Sarmatian's Purse and all they are doing for the Kingdom of God. The boxes were handed off to Sarmatian's Purse last Sunday along with a $364 donation ($10/box to help defer transportation, $10/box for the discipleship program, $6/box for "*The Greatest Journey*"). Thank you for the gifts in the offering designated "Shoeboxes".

"The Greatest Journey" is a 12-lesson discipleship course designed for Operation Christmas Child shoebox recipients. Children who participate in the program learn how to follow Christ and share Him with others. As they do, entire families and communities are transformed by the power of the Gospel, and churches are started. Every $6 gift provides one more child with an opportunity to learn about God's love for them as they study the Bible and are taught by a trained local teacher. Upon completion of the course, they receive a graduation certificate and a New Testament in their own language.

More Than What You Say You Believe



A parent reminds a child to tell the truth. No matter what happens, honesty matters. A few days later, that same child hears the parent give an untruthful answer to avoid an uncomfortable conversation. No one stops to explain the contradiction. No lesson is discussed. But the child has just witnessed something that may speak louder than the original instruction. It is easy to assume children are listening most closely when we sit them down to teach an important lesson. But some of their greatest lessons happen when we aren't trying to teach them anything at all. They are watching how we respond when we're frustrated, how we speak about others, how we handle disappointment, and whether our faith makes a difference in the

choices we make.

The example an adult sets can speak louder than the lesson they teach. We can tell them to forgive, but do they see us holding on to resentment? We can tell them prayer is important, but do they see us turn to God when life becomes difficult? We can tell them to put God first, but do our everyday decisions reflect that priority?

More is caught than taught. God had already established how faith was meant to be passed from one generation to the next.

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." - Deuteronomy 6:5-7 (NIV)

He instructed His people to love Him with all their heart, soul, and strength, and to teach His commands diligently to their children. But notice how that teaching was meant to happen. They were to talk about God's commands while sitting at home, walking along the road, lying down, and getting up.

Faith was not meant to be reserved for a lesson or a specific time of the week. It was meant to be part of everyday life. 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul reminds Timothy of the sincere faith that first lived in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. Paul specifically recognizes the sincerity of their faith. Their influence helped establish a spiritual foundation in Timothy's life. Later, Paul reminds him that from infancy he had known the Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:14-15). Before Timothy ever stepped into his own calling, he had seen sincere faith lived out in the lives of the women who helped shape him. Their example did not make the decision to follow Christ for him, but it gave him a foundation of faith to build upon.

If we want the next generation to carry a garment of faith, they need to see what it looks like to trust God. If we want them to carry a garment of praise, they need to see us worship even when circumstances are difficult. If we want them to understand the importance of prayer, they need to see us depend on God in the everyday moments of life. **The faith we hope they will carry tomorrow is the faith they need to see us live today.** This doesn't mean we have to be perfect. In fact, some of the most important lessons we can give the next generation come when they see us admit we were wrong, ask for forgiveness, and turn to God for help. Sincere faith isn't a life without mistakes. It is a life that keeps returning to the Lord and allowing Him to shape us.

Thanksgiving At The Heart Of Faith

Giving thanks is no small thing for the Christian. But far too many of us have the wrong impression. Deep down, we may see the summons to thanksgiving as pretty peripheral. It is tragic when gratitude seems obscure to the very people who have the most to be thankful for. To sinners forever saved by grace, thanksgiving should be significant. Even central. Healthy Christians are thankful Christians.

Central to Honoring God - Romans 1:21 shows us that thanksgiving is what we were created for, and it is "at the heart of what it means to be a Christian."

Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Side by side with honoring God is giving him thanks. Don't underestimate the centrality of thanksgiving. Gratitude is essential in doing whatever we do to the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31), and thanklessness is deeply intertwined with what it means to "fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). This is no small thing.

While it was thanklessness that was "*the first sin to emerge from our ancient rebellion against God*" (Rom 1:21), in our ongoing redemption, **it is thanksgiving that "replaces a bitter spirit with a generous one"**. Thanksgiving is important—essential—because the Christian life, from the beginning to the end, is a life of extraordinary grace.

Gratitude was "created by God to echo grace." We were created by God to echo his grace, and we've been redeemed by Jesus to echo his astounding grace all the more. The Bible commands gratitude to God as one of our highest duties. "*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name*" (Ps 100:4). God says that gratitude honors him: "*He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me*" (Ps 50:23). **Note the close connection between thanksgiving and the massive biblical reality of honoring and glorifying God.**

Giving thanks to God for what he has given to us is precious and essential—and so is trusting him for his ongoing provision in the future. There is an impulse in the fallen human—all our hearts—to forget gratitude is a spontaneous response of joy to receiving something. ... When we forget this, what happens is gratitude starts to be misused and distorted as an impulse to pay for the very thing that came to us free.

Thanks for the Past, Trust for the Future: Thanksgiving must learn to delegate and not attempt to do all the work itself. Thanksgiving has an indispensable ally named Faith, and they need to stay in good communication.

More Grace to Come: May God be pleased to fill us to overflowing with thanksgiving for his amazing graces—the greatest of which is the gift of himself in the person of his Son. And may thanksgiving give rise to great hope that the God who has so richly provided for us to date will most certainly give us everything we need for our everlasting good—and increase for all eternity in showing us "*the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus*" (Eph 2:7).

The grace we've seen so far is only a taste of the grace that is to come. Have your Thanksgiving ready. There will be much more echoing to enjoy.

MINISTRY TEAM

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