

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

The Gifts We Bring

The image of a suitor bringing a bouquet of flowers to his new found love is for me an apt metaphor of the gifts we offer to God. As an act of love we are invited to bring to God a “bouquet.” Such is the gift of the offering we bring to a Sunday worship service.

We give gifts to God in other ways as well. The gift I am thinking of at the moment is the gift of ourselves. Recently I was teaching my eight year old grandson about the stewardship of our dollars. I explained that as Christians we are responsible for the stewardship of all of our dollars, not just the ones we give to God. But when I got to the last point...about what we might give to God for His work...I paused and asked him “How can we give to God?” (I expected him to name the Sunday offering.) He thought for a moment. Then we looked up at me and said “Give Him ourselves?”

At that point I melted. He had said something much more profound than I was thinking. It reminded me of what the Apostle Paul had said of the Macedonian Christians: “they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us. (II Corinthians 8:5)”

The first gift we bring to God needs to be ourselves. When I speak of “ourselves,” I am thinking our hearts, our character, our personality, our passions, our interests, our talents...our very being. Specific gifts flow out of these.

So often in the Church we get it backward. We ask people to gift specific things...usually things that someone else needs to get done...without consideration of what is inside that person that might shape the most satisfying and effective gifting of all.

That is why in the immediate future, I am asking you first to give yourselves to the Lord and then to consider for what “area of ministry” you might have a heart. I am not asking what tasks are you willing to perform, but what area of ministry might be where your heart, character, personality, passion, interest, talent might lie?

The Lord’s ministry through St. Timothy needs to be re-thought and approached in a fresh way. His work needs faithful individuals who have a heart for Him and a willingness to explore how God may utilize you. As a first step, you can review the following “Time and Talents Survey” and be in touch with me.

Thank you for your thoughtful and prayerful consideration.

Pastor Dean