

**Seek First His Kingdom and His Righteousness
and all these things will be added to you**

Spiritual Food for Spiritual Thought

Reflections on this year's theme

In reflecting on the theme for the year, it brought great joy to my heart to know that God provided His Kingdom in order for us to become citizens of it. What a blessing and great privilege is to be of His righteousness for His name's sake. It brings to mind the abundant blessings that God has made available for us through Christ Jesus. Paul, in Eph.1:3 says, "blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus, who blessed us with every spiritual blessing of the heaven in Christ". These blessings come from above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

We learned of God's sovereignty over the earth; that everything is under His reign. He offers salvation to all, which is a spiritual relationship. As we live in this physical world, looking forward to eternity with Him, Jesus defined His kingdom as spiritual in contrast to the earthly kingdom, e.g. Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand". This indicates that there was already a physical kingdom in place (the kingdom of darkness). Then came the Kingdom of Light, which is more desirable.

As Christians, we must value the kingdom and its righteousness above all, because as we live this life we will face difficulties that will challenge us in making His Kingdom our first

priority. We must value the Kingdom more than everything else. This does not mean we are exempt from enjoying the good things in life, as pertaining to His righteousness.

These lessons are designed to remind us to continue seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness, as Paul said, "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above." The characteristics of Christian living, which is a code of ethics and a standard of conduct, must be practiced daily in our lives to demonstrate that our relationship with Him is in accordance with seeking Him first, and His righteousness.

As we continue to seek first His Kingdom, and His righteousness, we are now in a position to obey Him, which will enable us to benefit in all the things He has promised us. Our obedience to God is the key to inheriting His promises! We have been blessed this year with much spiritual food to equip us to live effective lives in God's kingdom and that will enable us to live victorious lives in the SON for the coming year.

Bro. Martin Samuel

NEWS & NOTES

Remember to pray for those who are sick and shut-in and for those who have requested prayer for various concerns.

MID-WEEK BIBLE CLASS HOMEWORK

Pure in Heart (Simmons/Williams) – Parents, please continue to review the books of the Old Testament with your children.

Mustard Seeds (Morrison/Morrison) – See your teachers for Bible Bowl material/information.

Peacemakers (Alexander/Myers) – Finish worksheet 2A.

God's Children (Holmes/Pegram) – Complete worksheet handed out in class.

Disciples (Malcolm/Transtamar) – Compile a list of reasons that the Pharisees and others wanted to kill Jesus, and also bring your yellow books to class. Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6..

Dorcas (Pettway) – See teacher for assignment.

Timothy (Holmes) – Find scriptures about how God wants us to keep our bodies holy..

NEW YEAR'S EVE SLIDE SHOW: Please give your photos for the New Year's Eve slide show to Christiana Samuel by today. Please submit photos in digital format only, as we will not be able to scan photos.

ITEMS NEEDED: Danielle Meuse is still in need of donations of health and beauty items to assemble a basket for the homeless of all ages. Please see Danielle if you can donate items or funds for this effort.

YOUNG CHILDREN'S SINGING GROUP will practice immediately following morning worship today, and every Sunday in preparation for the New Year's Eve celebration.

NORTHEASTERN LADIES' RETREAT: June 1-3, 2012 in Harrisburg PA. See Sis. Gallington for a detailed informational handout.

YOUTH MINISTRY BAKE SALES: Every Wednesday following Bible class. Please support our youth.

GIRL SCOUTS: Our girl Scout troops (4) are up and running for Daisies, Brownies, Juniors and Cadets. See Sis. Craigwell or Sis. Simmons for further info.

Church Calendar

"...for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ..."
– Ephesians 4:12

December 2011

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Worship Services

- ◆ - Special Events
- - Ministry Meetings

Events

- ◆ 12/16 – Game Night w/ Teen Talk (6:45pm)
- ◆ 12/23 – Youth Bowling Activity
- ◆ 12/27 – Youth Lock-In Activity
- ◆ 12/29 – Youth Paintball Activity
- ◆ 12/31 – New Years' Eve Celebration

Meetings:

- 12/11 Deacons' Meeting (after morning worship)
- 12/11 – Children's Choral Practice (til 1:30pm)
- 12/11 – R.A.C.E Ministry Meeting (following worship)
- 12/17 – Ministers', Elders' & Deacons' wives meeting

Weekly Events:

- Community Bible Study (Mondays @ 7pm)
- Prayer Meeting (Tuesdays @ 7pm)
- Mid-Week Bible Study (Wednesdays @ 6:45pm)
- Adult Choral Group (Thursdays @ 7:30pm)
- Basketball Night (Fridays @ 7pm)
- Men's Prayer (Saturdays @ 7:30am)
- Women's Prayer (Saturdays @ 9:30am)
- Youth Choral Group (Saturdays @ 2pm)