

Wisdom for Perilous Times



Messenger

Welcome! We are glad you chose to worship with us.

What's In It for You?

Lately, I have been thinking about the word, altruism. One friend defined it as, "doing things to benefit others." This is a concise definition. While we acknowledge that acting with an unselfish regard for others doesn't always come easily, we have a feeling it is part of being human. It is, perhaps a part that has been minimized by a wayward society. One statement that interested me comes from the perspective of one who believes in the process of natural selection as an explanation for origins. The statement is that humans are "hard-wired for empathy." This cooperative element allowed our ancestors to survive under harsh conditions. From the perspective of natural selection, this statement is absurd. However, the belief is contradictory if your basic assumption is survival of the fittest. Survivor instincts and genuine altruism are opposites and they contend for the place of priority.

The fact is, when you believe that humans evolved through the process of natural selection, true caring about others is way down on your list of priorities. Isn't that the core of the human dilemma? Selfish actions that benefit me, regardless of how they affect others? In natural selection, there is no "we" gene. But there is a WIIFM gene. Have you heard of this? WIIFM is an acronym that stands for, "What's In It For Me?"

These two dynamics compete for the first place in our hearts...It either me or them. WIIFM is a motivation for a person to engage in social movements, but not for the sake of benefitting others. We may accomplish something, but the accomplishment is empty, and we become weary and unmotivated.

On the other hand, most of us realize that when we make the effort to give without expectations of reciprocity, we feel fulfilled and energized. We indeed are "hard-wired" for empathy. But it is not because of natural selection...that would have been bred out long ago, because it does not advance the cause of self. The "hard-wired" for empathy is by design. It is part of being created in the image of God.

Why are you a follower of Jesus? What motivates you? Is it WIIFM or Altruism? Which character trait looks more like the actions of Jesus? WIIFM in the body of Christ leads to apathy and immobility. Altruism leads to satisfaction and life. It stems from trust and contentment. When you know who you are, altruism becomes your highest objective and your righteousness endures forever (Psalm 112:5-9).

by Dennis Baker

The Promise Revealed – John 3:14-16

- 1) The teachings of the Bible bring _____ to society.
- 2) Reasons the Bible is seen as harmful to society.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- 3) How would believers _____ in a world where the Bible was being eliminated from public access?
 - I. The _____ of the Promise is _____.
 - Agape love is a love of _____; it's a motivation for action taken on behalf of another.
 - 1 John 4:8 = _____
 - The Depth of that love is measured by the value of what is _____.
 - _____ love is inspired by Christ's example. Ephesians 5:1-2.
 - II. The _____ of the Promise is _____.
 - Believe is an _____ verb.
 - James 2:14-26 = Faith without _____ is _____.
 - III. The _____ in the Promise is _____.
 - Rebellion in the Garden led to _____.
 - Perish = to lose _____, to come to an _____, or to be _____.
 - Idea of John 10:1-10
 - IV. The _____ of the Promise is _____.
 - Resurrection and immortality are _____.
 - The quality of life – John 5:24 – He who hears the words of Jesus _____ eternal life = Quality of life – Abundant life.
 - To experience the _____ of God – Eph. 3:18-19.

"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education."

—Theodore Roosevelt

Sermon Summary

Evening *Keep Looking Up – Numbers 21:1-9*

The things we have and the circumstances of our lives can often distract us and hold our attention. Instead of looking up to God, we focus on our problems and the problems of people around. Just like the people mentioned in Numbers 21, we end up grumbling and complaining. When we grumble and complain, we might forfeit God’s mercy and receive His judgment. Paul echoes this thought when he tells the Church in Philippi, “Do everything without grumbling and arguing, so that you may be blameless and pure...” In fact, he tells us to go a step further when he writes, “Do everything in love” 1 Corinthians 16:14. When we look up to Jesus, we witness the very essence of love.

Schedule of Services

Bible Class	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wed. Evening Study	7:00 pm

Minister Dennis Baker

Shepherds

Dale Cureton Morris Guest
Larry Miller

Deacons Responsibility

Don Dillahunt	Membership & Attendance Fellowship
Spencer Guest	Youth Work Education Information & Technology
Rick Pinney	Worship

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ATTENDANCE

Bible Class	56
AM Worship	88
PM Worship	40

FINANCES

Weekly Budget	\$4077
Weekly Contribution	\$6152

Jesus was a Servant

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Perhaps the most radical part of Jesus’ identity is that He came to be a servant. The last thing that most of us naturally want to do in our relationships is serve one another. Instead, we seek to control. From a young age we learn how to get what we want. We admire those who know how to finesse people, manage circumstances, and control outcomes. Politics is the art of controlling others.

Jesus’ enemies knew that He was not a politician. The Herodians said to Jesus, “Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men” (Matthew 22:16). Jesus wouldn’t play the political games of manipulation; He just said what needed to be said. In so doing, He truly served their best interests because He told them what they needed to hear, not what they wanted to hear. Are we open to hearing what we need to hear?

Jesus said in Mark 10:42-44: “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great one’s exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.” Human pride does not desire to serve, but to “exercise authority.” Pride is the biggest obstacle to being a servant. Are we open to being a servant by killing our pride? God bless you and I love you.

By Kevin Cauley – churchofchristarticles.com

Things to Know

POTLUCK

February 27th after morning worship.
Questions see Jessica Brothers

PHOTOS

ALL MEMBERS need to have their photos updated. We will be taking pictures in the adult bible lab after worship. If you have questions, please see Heidi.

Ladies Service Teams

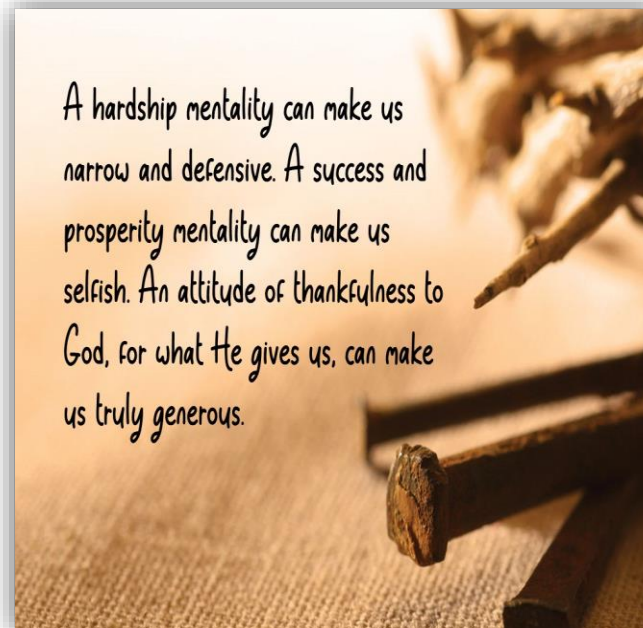
GET INVOLVED! The ladies service teams are reorganizing. Please sign-up if you are still interested in being a part of a team, the sheet is on the back table. A team leader will contact you.

Update your paper directory

Joy Filippone
817 Wildflower
Prescott, AZ 86301
(623)451-4858

Thank You!

To all of you for your prayers for myself and my family; especially for the beautiful Prescott book. I truly miss all of you. My health is improving but I still need your prayers for a while. They are really helping.
Love in Christ
Betty Hanna



THE LORD, THE LORD,
THE COMPASSIONATE
AND GRACIOUS GOD,
SLOW TO ANGER,
ABOUNDING IN LOVE
AND TRUTH,
MAINTAINING LOVE
TO THOUSANDS, AND
FORGES WICKEDNESS,
REBELLION, AND SIN.
EXODUS 34:6-7

Prayer Requests

Amber Cox is recovery at home from COVID. She was sent home with oxygen.

Paul Newhoff (Jessica Brother’s father) his lymphoma is worse, but doctors say treatment will make a huge difference. Praise God!

Betty Hanna follow-up from watchman procedure
Vickie Moulard (Betty Hanna’s daughter-in-law) heart transplant recovery.

Continual Prayers Health Reasons/Treatment

~**Rusty & Bonnie Parker**, many difficulties with Rusty’s dementia

~**Lucy Cottabarren** at the Granite Creek Rehab facility.

~**Kim Cureton** is recovering at home with physical therapy

~**Steve Mann** treatment for his cancer.

~**Richard Erno** received his bone marrow transplant. Pray that he will not reject this transplant.

~**Abby Parra** immune compromised after chemo treatment.

~**Suzanne Lacey** (friend of Gowers) cancerous kidney to be removed

Our Shut-ins

Marjorie Trammell