

Christmas 2020

Christmas is almost here and shortly after that a new year. Many of us are praying that when January 1, 2021 comes, we will see a “light at the end of the tunnel.” We all want to see hope, peace, joy and love around that corner of the new year, anticipating a big sigh of relief....**We Made It!!!!** It also makes me think of This traditions that we normally participate in but, we all know, “normal” is not what we will be doing for the holidays.

One “normal” tradition that Faith members do every year is being generous to those who need a little extra help during the holidays. Last year we blessed several Beyond 90 families with gifts and this year we would like to continue this mission.

Beyond 90 has been blessed with a corporate sponsor who is having a Christmas party for the newly arrived refugees on December 5th. They are providing gifts for the children, so I asked Lori how we could contribute. She suggested that we provide Walmart gift cards that she can give to the parents that will be attending so they can use them towards other household needs. I thought that this would be an easy and safe solution for many of us.

I am giving you a **deadline** of Sunday, November 29th to get the gift cards to the church. You could also send your donation to the church and I will purchase the gift card for you. If you do send money or a check, please make sure it is marked “gift card.”

Even though we will not have the “joy” of shopping for gifts, these gift cards will be a reflection of our Christmas spirit of love and how we share Jesus with others. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Blessings,
Donna Thouin (904) 993-7034

November 15, 2020

Psalm 76

- ¹ In Judah God is known,
his name is great in Israel.
² whose abode has been established in Salem,
his dwelling place in Zion.
³ **There God broke the flashing arrows,
the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war.**
- ⁴ You are glorious more majestic
than the everlasting mountains
⁵ **The stouthearted were stripped of their spoil;
they sank into sleep;**
all the soldiers were unable to use their hands
- ⁶ **At your rebuke, O God of Jacob,
both rider and horse lay stunned.**
- ⁷ You are indeed to be feared!
**Who can stand before you
when once your anger is roused?**
- ⁸ From the heavens you uttered judgment;
the earth feared and was still
⁹ when God rose up to establish judgment,
to save all the oppressed of the earth.
- ¹⁰ **Surely human wrath shall praise you,
the residue of wrath you will gird upon you.**
- ¹¹ Make vows to the LORD your God, and keep them;
**let those who surround God bring gifts
to the One to be feared,**
- ¹² **who cuts off the spirit of monarchs,
and makes the rulers of the earth afraid.**

I Thessalonians 5: 1-11

5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

St. Matthew 25: 14-30

¹⁴ "For *the kingdom of heaven is* like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. ¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' ²¹ His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' ²² He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you

delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' ²³ His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler

over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' ²² He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' ²³ His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

²⁴ "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is* yours.'

²⁶ "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.

²⁹ 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

