

## What Can I Give Him?



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

WWW.GSBCFAMILY.ORG

It's hard to believe that a new year is here, but it most certainly is. Christmas itself has come and gone. The decorations have been or are being put away and we are preparing for another year. As we start off the year I want to start off with a question that will be asked a lot over the next few months – “What can I give Him?” This is the season where new years' resolutions are made. I'm certainly in favor of making some evaluations and some resolutions, but there is something wrong with most of them. Most of them begin with me. Perhaps we would say, “I am going to start exercising. I am going to lose weight. I am going to stop some bad habit. I am going to be a better spouse,” etc. These are all good but they all are self-focused. I wonder from God's perspective what He'd say our resolutions should be. As God looks into your life, what does He see that needs to be changed? I think if we are all honest with ourselves we can quickly recognize that there are some things in our life that we should readily give to the Lord.

There are several examples of this in Scripture, but I think it is quite appropriate that we consider the example of the wise men in Matthew 2:1-12. The wise men who went to worship Jesus remain much of a mystery to us today. We don't know their names and many are confused as to whether they were astrologers or kings. But, while we don't know everything about these men we do know that they set a good example for us to follow.

Of course, when we think of the wise men we all remember that they gave gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts came at great sacrifice, but beyond that they were prophetic in nature. However, far beyond that, they gave an even more significant gift to the Lord. They gave Christ the preeminence in their lives. This means that they gave Him first place. They put Him above themselves. Their chief desire was to exalt Jesus and no other. This is seen in everything they did. The Gentile wise men left everything because they were seeking to worship Christ. They left families, possibly thrones, and made great sacrifice to go and find the place where the King of the Jews resided. Yes, they certainly put Jesus first. I wonder if we were in their shoes what we would've done. Perhaps we'd look at our career and say, “Well I just can't afford to lose this job. If I were to do what God wants me to do I don't know what will happen.” Perhaps we'd look at our own comforts and say, “I don't have time to take a journey to obey God.” The truth is that we often come up with all kinds of excuses. But, I remind you that our lack of faith and action would rob us of many a blessings. Remember what they did next? The Word of God says that when they saw Him, they fell down, and worshiped Him. Just like the shepherds who had already visited Jesus and worshipped by singing praises to God, the wise men, too, bowed in worship. Worship is not an option with Christ. God created us to worship Him. That is the only appropriate response to Jesus. One way to worship was to bow low before another. It signaled ones submission to the other as having authority over them. By their actions and their words it is obvious that they gave Christ the preeminence and worshiped Him regardless of the cost.

The wise men set for us an example to follow. But, I wonder how you let that affect your life? Is it just a cute story to you? Or is it something that you take seriously? Christmas is over. You have given away all of your gifts. But let us not forget that the most important gift is the one yet to be given – the gift you give to Christ. So as we start this year, let us all search our hearts and the will of God and carefully consider, “What Can I Give Him?” As D.L. Moody once stated, “The world has yet to see what God can do with one man (or woman) who is fully surrendered to Him.”

In Christ,  
Pastor Matthew

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Are you wanting to take advantage of an opportunity for you to get a promotion at work? Does your wife want you to give more direction for your family? Do you feel a burden to become a leader in church? Are there obstacles preventing you from taking that step from follower to leader? Start this year with a step in the right direction by learning how you can become a Leader at work, home and church. Join us as we walk through the scriptures focusing on Leaders; learning from their success and their failures. Building with principles from books by John Maxwell including *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, *21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader*, *Becoming a Person of Influence*. and others. Every week is independent from others, but you don't want to miss any.



## ATTENTION ALL RELAYERS.....



Our January meeting is going to be Monday, January 25 at 6pm in the sanctuary. The cancer awareness fair is Saturday, February 6 10am-4pm at the NRV Mall with set up before 10am. I will have sign up sheets at our meeting, I would like to have people working in 30min-1 hour intervals. We will be doing our "putt for a cure" green. When you purchase a putt your name goes in a drawing for a nice gift basket. When you make a hole-in-one your name goes in a second time. We will also have a donation jar at our table. We would like to have team members giving to the basket. If you can please consider what you may have to give or what you might be able to purchase for the basket. For more information or to register as team members, please contact Anita Ferguson.

Our roast beef dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 20 11am-2pm I will have tickets ready this Sunday, please see me to get yours or message me and I will leave some at the church for you.

## PRAYER CHAIN

Anyone wishing to be added to the internet prayer chain can sign up via the website- [prayer@gsbfamily.org](mailto:prayer@gsbfamily.org) or by calling Penny Kouns at 382-4647. You can use these two means of communication to have a prayer request posted.



## YOUTH NEWS!!



Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm - 8:15pm - We will finish study of Esther...come join us! We'll have a time of Q&A from the guys/girls and dig through the Word to find/confirm the answers to these questions. As normal, Mrs. Yevonne & Mrs. Heather will lead the girls, and the guys are led by the dynamic trio-combo of Pastor Paul, Mr. Brian & Mr. Brent.

Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm- GIRLS ACTIVITY- Related to the wrap up of our Esther Study, GIRLS will feast and celebrate AT THE KIRKLAND HOME (245 Sequoia Cir NW Christiansburg; Mrs. Heather & family are gracious hosts) for dinner & a movie. Girls may bring snacks/drinks of their preference.

## LOVE OFFERING

In addition to our normal tithes and offerings over the next two weeks we will have love offering envelopes available for anyone



## SCRIP

I just wanted to remind everyone not to forget to place a scrips order this week. I know Christmas is over, but you still have your everyday shopping to do. Visa gift cards, available in different denominations, make it easy to shop almost anywhere Visa is accepted (yes, there are some places that do not take them but I know Kroger and Target does). Almost all of us shop at WalMart or are planning to eat out next week. If you have any questions please contact Duane French.

Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm- GUYS ACTIVITY- Related to the wrap up of our Esther Study, GUYS will feast and celebrate AT THE WADE HOME (433 Craigs Mountain Rd Christiansburg; Walt, Pam, Matthew Wade are gracious hosts) for a good-grillin' time to be had by the guys... meats provided; guys may bring sides and/or drinks of their preference.

Sisters of Grace will be meeting THIS Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

## "My Time" PLAN by Family Pastor Paul de Gastyne

As we are marching into the second decade of 2000 I'm reminded by so many different things that the clock is ticking. I no longer watch Baby New Year with the big ears or the Times Square ball drop, but there are other things sticking out like a sore thumb. Things are moving fast and the amount of information coming at me can be overwhelming, even depressing, at times if I let it. So many things are competing for my attention that it becomes clear; game on!

When the Big Snow fell and I was caught trying to get home, as if there had not been warnings, I lost my smart phone which I've called my brain for the last 3+ years. So looking for more help I chose a new data device and plan. I wanted something that would help me organize, expedite my work, crunch the numbers, centralize the messages and make connecting with people more effective. I do believe you **pick the best** tool (player) for the job, and it will pay in the end. In reality, the greatness of merging all my contacts, giving me ready access to texts, anywhere Internet, voice and a few different e-mail addresses necessitated by moving from one device (company) to another has generated an even greater demand on "my time." I've become convinced I need a better PLAN. Not one that necessitates a call to Verizon, but for My Time.

I've spent most of my life being "a player." To me the ball is an incredible invention. I love the thrill of victory and try to use the agony of defeat to fuel the next outing; sometimes wisdom dictating that I pick another venue! As a player I always had a coach to do "the work," though I now believe never appreciated it, while I played! So now I know that I need a Coach who will allow me to **linger in His presence** to learn how to put together a winning Game Plan. So where do I look for this? I appreciate encouragement like: "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart" (Hebrews 12: 1-3).

So rather than trying to keep up with "it" or "them all," I'm reminded that God is the One with the PLAN! Yes as my fellow players I must **appreciate people** as part of His plan, but if there is to be any success there must be only one Game Plan; His! I recently read about the interaction between two Joes, Coach Joe Gibbs and his Quarterback Joe Theisman. When they were new to each other Gibbs laid out the first game plan with "does anyone have something to say." Theisman spoke up with lots of ideas until Gibbs had to interrupt and remind him whose job it was to come up with the Game Plan and whose job as a player it was to execute that plan. The player must **neutralize self** if he is going to be able to use his skills to carry the team to victory. So God is the coach and I'm the player called upon to execute the PLAN. So my PLAN:

**P**ick the best   **L**inger in His presence   **A**ppreciate People   **N**eutralize Self

# January 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1)	2) 9a Prayer time in Sanctuary
3) 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 5-7p Youth & Parent Mixer No AWANA or Home Group	4) 7 p Men's Monthly Mtg.	5) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary 7 pm Deacon's Mtg.	6) 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir 6:45p Praise Team Practice	7) 10a Senior Saints Fellowship	8)	9) 9a Prayer time in Sanctuary
10) 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 5-7p AWANA and Youth Worship & Serve 5:15-6:45 pm Home Group	11)	12) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary	13) 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir 6:45p Praise Team Practice	14)	15)	16) 9a Prayer time in Sanctuary
17) 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 5-7p AWANA and Youth Worship & Serve 5:15-6:45 pm Home Group	18) 7 p Sisters of Grace Meeting	19) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary 7 pm Deacon's Mtg.	20) 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir 6:45p Praise Team Practice	21) 10a Senior Saints Fellowship	22)	23) 9a Prayer time in sanctuary
24) 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 5-7p AWANA and Youth Worship & Serve 5:15-6:45 pm Home Group	25)	26) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary	27) 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir 6:45p Praise Team Practice	28)	29)	30) 9a Prayer time in sanctuary
31) 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 5-7p AWANA and Youth Worship & Serve 5:15-6:45 pm Home Group						

## IT'S PICTURE TIME!!

Volunteers are needed to help with registration/sign-ins. Call Kathy Endraske at 577-6990

### JANUARY 27-30

### 3:00PM-9:20PM

## SIGN UP IN THE SANCTUARY FOYER TODAY!!