

Big Screens and Big Blessings

While Kimberly and I were visiting my parents and sisters over the week of Thanksgiving break, my dad took advantage of a big sale at Best Buy and purchased a new big-screen TV. Now understand something: when I say “big-screen,” I mean BIG SCREEN. The TV he bought has a 70” screen. I’m not going to lie, it was super awesome watching the football games throughout the week and feel like I was actually at the game (but with better food). However, when Kimberly and I returned home on that Friday, I noticed something for the first time. We have a 38” television in our living room. It has never seemed small to me before, but when I walked into our house for the first time after Thanksgiving, that screen just seemed so insignificant. What was the point of even having a television if it was going to be this “small?” (Disclaimer: I have since adjusted to my reality and am perfectly content in what I have).

One of my favorite songs, especially this time of year, is “Count Your Blessings.” You of course know the chorus.

“Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God has done!”

How should I feel if in “counting my blessings,” I do not count as high as others? What if my “blessings” are different, somehow lesser, than others? In examining this, it is fair to conclude that we may have a misconstrued idea of what a “blessing” actually is. Paul says in Ephesians 1:3, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...”*

The Greek word translated here as “blessing” is *“eulogéō.”* It is a compound word that literally translated would be “a good word.” When God blesses us, he is literally speaking a good word to us. See, a blessing is not a big-screen TV, a large house, a new car, a Christmas bonus, a healthy family or nice clothes. A blessing is God’s good word to us. Don’t mishear me. Do not think I am saying that the Bible is our only physical blessing. What I am saying is that the words of encouragement, perseverance, love, contentment, thanksgiving, exaltation, humiliation, etc. All these words that God gives to us, that apply to us in every situation...whether we have a lot or very little...these are our greatest blessings.

The next time you’re sitting at home and counting your blessings in a small way, remember that song that we sing with our children:

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty. There’s nothing my God cannot do.

Grace and Peace.

Josh

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Sunday, December 10, 2017

<p>Prayer List Updates</p> <p>Jimmy and Barbara Wilkins – Nancy Lasley’s brother and his wife; returning from Haiti this week</p> <p>Frankie Towell – getting a pace-maker, waiting for appointment</p> <p>Irma Shipley – out of hospital; weak, in rehab in Memphis to regain strength</p> <p>Connor Penix – has ears rechecked Wednesday</p> <p>Egerton family – friends of Vires family; baby Audrey, been in NICU since birth in July; needs heart surgery but other problems must improve first</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Birthday</p> <p>Cole Sills December 11</p>	<p>Upcoming Events</p> <p>Dec 24 leave for meal at 3:30 pm Mission Outreach</p> <p>January 9 ladies’ Bible study 10 am resumes; children welcome</p> <p>January 10 After School Special resumes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Announcement</p> <p>Monette church of Christ has asked for our help with Christmas Eve dinner at Mission Outreach in Paragould. The food list is on the back information table, and they also need men’s hats and gloves. If you want to help serve the meal, we will leave from the activity building at 3:30 pm.</p>	<p>Correspondence Course Ministry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">week of December 4-9: 13 lessons graded</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">December Haiti Needs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">powdered milk deodorant</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Last Week’s Attendance</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday morning: 52 Sunday evening: 37 Wednesday evening: 41</p>
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Weekly Service Assignments

Sunday Morning	Bible class: 9:45 am worship: 10:45 am	Sunday Evening	6:00 pm
First Prayer	Rudi Cagle	First Prayer	Ken Beach
Announcements	Rudi Cagle	Closing Prayer	Matthew Sills
Second Prayer	Peter Salley	Lord’s Supper	Larry Brooks Ken Beach
Scripture Reading	Raymond Lasley	Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm
Lord’s Supper	1. Ed Young 3. Ken Beach 2. Larry Brooks 4. Justin Beach	First Prayer	Josh Vires
Closing Prayer	Matthew Sills	Closing Prayer	Matthew Sills