



Melbourne
Church of Christ
Where You Are Part of God's Family
December 11, 2011

Avarice: Two Treasures, Two Pairs of Eyes, and Two Masters

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

“No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” (Matthew 6:19-24 NRSV)

Avarice is greed for wealth or material gain. As with other sinful behaviors, Jesus probes deep to discover the source of greed. What he reveals cuts deep into our views of possessions and what our true values are.

Jesus uses three pictures to challenge our views. First, he speaks about treasures. This is an interesting term because calling our possessions “treasures” points the conversation to things that are really, really important to us—things we try to protect, secure, and keep. Calling our possessions “treasures” means that we have invested a lot in them, both time and money. Calling our possessions “treasures” means that we value these items more than anything else in our life. Finally, calling our possessions “treasures” means that we are emotionally attached to them. Our hearts are directly connected to these “treasures.”

I find Jesus’ next picture extremely interesting—the eyes being the lamp of the body. In other words, our eyes give light to our bodies. Our bodies would be very impaired if we could not see. When my body is enveloped in darkness, my ability to move around and make good decisions is extremely hampered.

The last picture Jesus gives us is the most insightful and reveals what really is at work in greed. Wealth can become our master and turn us into slaves. What we own drives our lives rather than the one who created us and gave us everything we own.

To make good use of Jesus’ lesson here, you need to do some soul searching. What do you really value? What are your treasures? A fairly simple way to find these answers is to look over your checkbook register, your credit card statements, or your financial records to see where you are spending your money. Also, are your eyes wide open and healthy? Do you view money and things as a blessing from God to be used wisely by you? Finally, are you honoring God by managing what really belongs to him in a way that shows that he is your master?

—Steve Puckett



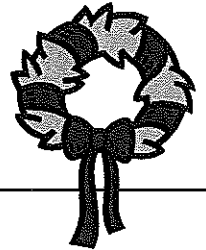
Welcome! “The LORD has done great things for us, and we [rejoice]” (Psalm 126:3, NRSV). Tune our hearts, God, to sing your praises now and always.



Melbourne Church Family Calendar/Area Events

(See the bulletin board, bulletin insert, or call the church office for more information)

- 12/11 Worship at Consulate, 2 p.m. with Melbourne Ensemble
- 12/14 Vero Beach C of C Praise & Harmony Workshop w/Keith Lancaster 7-8:30 p.m.
- 12/18 Worship at Life Care of Melbourne, 2 p.m., with Melbourne Ensemble
- 12/18 Ladies Ornament Exchange, 1:30 p.m. at the home of Bonnie Seamon
- 12/25 Christmas praise service, 10 a.m. - no Bible classes
- 12/25 No 2 p.m. service at Life Care of Melbourne on 12/25
- 12/25 No Sun. night service at the church building on 12/25
- 12/26-30 Happy Holidays! Church office will be closed this week, and will reopen on Jan. 2
- 12/27 Food Pantry will be closed on 12/27
- 12/28 No Wed. night service on 12/28
- 1/1 There *will* be a 6 p.m. service at the church building on 1/1
- 1/15 Blood Drive in our parking lot, 8:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- 1/28 Ladies Day 2012 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Sebring Parkway C of C "How Shall I Be Remembered"



Ramblings From the Tilted Halo Society

Huh?

The Thracian people were slaves and were being oppressed by the Romans. Who are the Thracians, you might ask. Well they are an ancient people that no longer exist. The Thracians came from places like Thrace, Macedonia, Dacia, Scythia, Minor, Bithynia, Mysia, Pannonia, and other regions of the Balkans and Anatolia. They needed and cried out for a savior

There was a Thracian named Spartacus, who was a Roman Soldier. Spartacus fell out of favor with the Roman army. Spartacus was sold as a gladiator because of his incredible strength and fighting skills. After many fierce battles, Spartacus led an escape of the gladiators and slaves. He would fight fierce battles with the Roman army and won many. Well, this was the man for the job. He was a hero and a savior to the Thracian slaves and gladiators. He brought them freedom and hope. The battles Spartacus fought were legendary; he was fierce, a true warrior leader. If you saw the movie Spartacus, you remember when he was called out to be put to death; he stood right up and said, "I am Spartacus." But then so did many of the other warriors in his army to show their loyalty and allegiance. He was truly beloved among his people.

The Jewish people had been subjected to years of captivity, slavery and abuse, and they cried out for a savior. Moses and Joshua both were sent to free them from human captivity, although they were not the savior God ultimately had in mind. The Gentiles, non Jewish, had no savior promised but one was delivered. With all that was going on in the world, they too waited for a Spartacus, Joshua, King David-type Savior and Messiah. They

awaited a man who would lead them from bondage created in the earthly world. They and we at times see no further than our noses. We think in worldly terms. What other way would you take on an oppressor but by a great warrior.

Well, God did send a Messiah and Savior. God sent a baby who was called Jesus. Huh? As Jesus grew, he wore no armor, he carried no sword, he rode no great steed, and his battle cry was not to physically destroy anyone. Huh? What in the world is this? Well, that's it exactly -- he came into this world from another world, a spiritual world. He didn't come just to free us from worldly bondage, but from the spiritual bondage of ourselves and from sin. Jesus fought spiritual battles, battles we could never fight, even with Spartacus, David, or Joshua. Jesus saved us all on a spiritual and eternal basis. Jesus died so we could be saved.

To Be Continued...

God Bless
Ken Jones
THS <><

Counseling is available, free of charge, for any of our members, your families, and any referrals you want to make.

Call Ken Jones to schedule an appointment - church office, 723.8233 or cell, 501.2014.

Family News and Notes



Shepherd's Corner

House or Home

A cute little girl was sitting on top of a pile of luggage in a hotel lobby. Her parents were at the desk registering for their room. A sympathetic lady asked the little girl if they were visiting relatives in the city. "Oh, no," the little girl replied. "We're going to live at this hotel until we find a house. My daddy has a new job and we had to sell our house and move." The lady said, "Oh, it's too bad you don't have a home." to which the girl replied, "Oh, we have a home -- it's just that we don't have a house to put it in."

In this day and age when so many people are losing their houses, it's important to remember what she did. You can still have a home even without a house to put it in.

God Is Watching the Apples

At a recent church luncheon buffet line, next to the apples was a sign that read: "apples - take one per person. Remember, God is watching." A little further down the line next to the cookies, someone had scrawled with a crayon: "cookies - take all you want. God is watching the apples."

Fruit of the Spirit

It's tough living out the fruit of the spirit when my flesh just wants to be a couch potato."

Tom Fennell

Ladies Ornament Exchange

Sunday, December 18, 2011
1:30 p.m.

At the home of Bonnie Seamon
206 Brightwater Drive
Palm Bay, FL 32909

Please bring a wrapped ornament to exchange
and RSVP to Bonnie at 321-768-9724

Children's Ministry Announcements

12/11 Sun. AM - Nursery is provided during adult worship for infants and toddlers up to age 3. Preschool Children's Worship is available for preschool children age 3-5. Elementary children (K-5th grade) will worship with their families in the auditorium today (4th Sun.)
* Please pick up your children promptly after services.

12/14 Wednesday, 6:30 PM - (Pizza served from 5:30-6:15 p.m.) All children age 3 yrs.-5th grade go to the CW room. Our theme this month is Jesus of Nazareth.

12/4/2011

CW Contribution \$33
(All CW contributions go to Called & Compelled Honduras Missions)

Attendance:

Sunday School (Cradle roll-5th grade)	nc
Preschool Children's Worship	nc
Elementary Children's Worship	nc
Nursery	nc

Pre-School Worship & Nursery Assignments

Dec. 11, 2011

Pre-Sch. Worship: Bonita Potts/Juliette Adams/Callie Heuser
Nursery: Stacy Green/Melissa Webber

Dec. 18, 2011

Pre-Sch. Worship: Pam Mason/Katie Stapor/Callie Heuser
Nursery: Sophye Wimpee/Cheri Tate

Food Pantry

Food Pantry will be closed on 12/27



This past week, 137 visitors (407 total in families) were provided with food through our food pantry!

With the holiday season approaching, extra donations of non-perishable items, *especially CANNED MEATS or VEGETABLES, are needed at this time. Money donations are also welcome and appreciated.* (there is a basket and a collection box near the pillar on south side of foyer for your donations) Thank you to our dedicated staff of volunteers, and to all who continue to support our pantry in any way!

The Melbourne Church of Christ Food Pantry is open to the community on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and is a non-discriminatory facility of The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Melbourne Church of Christ
810 Hollywood Blvd.
West Melbourne, FL 32904
(321) 723-8233
www.melbournechurchofchrist.org
office@melbournechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes All Ages 9:30 a.m.

AM Worship 10:30 a.m.

** PM Worship 6:00 p.m.

**** (Alternative Care Group meetings various times - see list below or contact Ken Jones)**

2nd Sun. TORCH Fundraiser Pancake

Tuesday

Ladies' Bible Class 10:30 a.m. in the

church office; lunch out on 1st Tues.

Men's Prayer Meeting (1st Tues.) 7 p.m.
in the church office

Wednesday

Pizza 5:30 p.m.; classes 6:30 p.m.

Care Groups:

Don Nickens (795-4223); Calvin Potts

(725-4679); Gary Canup (952-0558);

Bob Eckelberry (984-3927);

Walter Pierce (327-3684);

Steve Puckett (432-9932);

Serving as Elders:

Gary Canup, Tom Fennell, Don Hall,
Mike Lovelace, Don Nickens,
Calvin Potts, and Pat Seamon

Serving On Staff:

Tom Fennell, Pastoral Care
Linda Hounschell, Financial Secretary
Ken Jones, Involve. Min./Counseling
Debby Nickens, Children's Minister
Walter Pierce, Youth Minister
Steve Puckett, Senior Minister
Cheri Tate, Secretary

Family Record 12/4/11

Attendance

6th Grade-Adult Bible Classes: 135

Children's Bible Classes:

Total Bible Classes:

Auditorium Worship 223

Children's Worship/Nursery:

Total Worship Count:

Budget Items

Weekly Budget 7/1/11-6/30/12 \$ 9,784

Contribution to Budget: \$11,559

Contribution to Special Items: \$ 470

YTD Over/Short: (\$12,123)

Order of Worship
December 11, 2011

Song Leader	Walter Pierce
<i>We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise</i>	54
Welcome & Announcements	Pat Seamon
<i>Above All Else</i>	171
<i>Thank You, Lord!</i>	781
Shepherd's Prayer	Don Hall
<i>Listen to Our Hearts</i>	810
Lord's Supper / Offering	Walter Pierce
<i>Jesus, Hold My Hand</i>	412
<i>How Great Is Our God</i>	Words on Slides
Scripture Reading <i>Matt. 6:19-24</i>	Ron Whelpley
Message	Steve Puckett
<i>I Have Decided to Follow Jesus</i>	674
Closing Prayer	Bill Pinch
<i>Mighty to Save</i>	Words on Slides

- + A/V Tech: Rich Mason
- + Service at Life Care of Melbourne, 2 p.m.: Donny Canup
- + Service at Consulate, 2 p.m.: Melbourne Ensemble

Worship Coordinators

Ken Jones/Mel Green/Cletis Diehl

Servers: Alex Heuser (RS)
(Dec.) Manny Thomas (RM)
Chip Carothers (C)
Eulice Curington (LM)
Alex Zima (LS)

Ushers: Dale Knowles (RS)
(Dec.) Jorge Lara (RM)
Cletis Diehl (C)
Ken Jones (LM)
Glen Wirsch (LS)

Shepherd's Prayer (Dec.): Don Hall

Serving Next Sunday, Dec. 18

Song Leader: Tyrone Carter
Announcements: Pat Seamon
Presiding: Jack Hayhurst
Reading: Larry Frazier
Message: Steve Puckett
Closing Prayer: Jessie Hewett
A/V Tech: Steve Lindsey

- + Service at Life Care of Melb., 2 p.m.: Melbourne Ensemble