

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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WHAT THE FATHER ABOVE GIVES

Larry R. Ping II

Among the world’s greatest givers, none come close to matching the giving of the Father. It is impossible to out-give God! Now and then, it would serve us well to pause and ponder what God has given. The Father gives...

1) LIFE UNTO THE WORLD. Jesus confirmed this in saying “*For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world*” (Jn. 6:33). God saw fit to send His Son Who said, “*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly*” (Jn. 10:10). This life is that which comes after this earthly sojourning is complete. Jesus said to Martha, “*I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live*” (Jn. 11:25).

2) THE INCREASE. The Corinthian brethren were issued a Divine rule which stands true today. “*I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase*” (I Cor. 3:6). May we mind our

responsibility to plant and water the seed, and allow God to mind His! May we not be caught up in numbers, but be busy speaking “*forth the words of truth and soberness*” (Acts 26:25).

3) THE VICTORY. In the resurrection chapter Paul pens “*But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (I Cor. 15:57). The victory is over sin, the “*sting of death*” (I Cor. 15:56) and is the “*victory that overcometh the world, even our faith*” (I Jn. 5:4).

4) WISDOM. James taught “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him*” (Jam. 1:5). Wisdom is knowledge applied. God provides every opportunity in His Word for our knowledge and wisdom to increase. It is done through study (II Tim. 2:15) and daily searching of God’s Word (Acts 17:11). Remember, “*wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are*

not to be compared to it” (Prov. 8:11). Work hard to find wisdom and to use it!

5) GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. James reported “*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble*” (Jam. 4:6). Grace is favor shown by God. For example, “*Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord*” (Gen. 6:8). Paul told Titus “*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men*” (Titus 2:11). It must be accessed “*by faith*” (Rom. 5:2).

6) ABILITY. Peter pronounced “*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth; that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen*” (I Pet. 4:11). When God provides a man with ability, it must be used in the Lord’s service. May I use the ability God gives me, and “*do it with thy might*” (Eccl. 9:10). May you do the same!

THINGS PERTAINING TO ALL MEN

Larry R. Ping II

The phrase “of all men” is an all-encompassing phrase. From it, we glean many important and valuable lessons. Thus, we make this brief study of it.

1) DEATH OF ALL MEN. Moses used the phrase “*If these men die the common death of all men*” (Num. 16:29). The use of the phrase “of all men” in this place undeniably points out the basic fact of life all men will die. The wise man penned “*For the living know that they shall die*” (Eccl. 9:5). As well, the Bible reveals “*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment*” (Heb. 9:27). Barring the Lord’s second return (I Cor. 15:50-51), each living person will pass from life, “*for that is the end of all men*” (Eccl. 7:2).

2) HATED OF ALL MEN. The Lord warned His people “*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake*” (Matt. 10:22). The use of the phrase “of all men” in this place indicates God’s followers will, at times, be in possession of those who hate them. This

is truly directed at Jesus who challenged His followers by saying “*he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved*” (Mk. 13:13). That this happens should be no surprise. The Word of God reminds its readers “*Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you*” (I Jn. 3:13).

3) HEARTS OF ALL MEN. The apostles’ prayer was directed to the “*Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men*” (Acts 1:24). The role of the phrase “of all men” in this place is to act as a notice God knows all things about all men at all times. As Samuel looked for a new king to replace the errant Saul, he was told “*man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart*” (I Sam. 16:7). The Psalmist sums it up well when writing “*Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off*” (Psa. 139:2).

4) BLOOD OF ALL MEN. Paul told the Ephesian elders “*Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men*”

(Acts 20:26). The utilization of the phrase “of all men” in this place emphasizes Paul’s sense of duty to preach the Gospel to all men. We should have the same urge. Paul similarly said to the church at Rome “*I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise*” (Rom. 1:14). Recall, “*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*” (II Tim. 2:2).

5) READ OF ALL MEN. Paul authored “*Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men*” (II Cor. 3:2). The use of the phrase “of all men” in this place says one thing. That is, our lives serve as an example and influence to all who watch (Rom. 14:7). Of Abel the Hebrew writer said, “*By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh*” (Heb. 11:4). What do they see when they see you and me?

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm