

The Springs

Where The Thirsty Find Life

December 11, 2024

“But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption...”

1 Corinthians 1:30

I was reflecting more this morning about Sunday’s sermon, and more specifically about the connection between the coming Messiah and righteousness. In my preparation last week, I read some articles about how Christ is called our righteousness; in them, they pointed to the above verse. In theology, there are two different understandings of righteousness: imputed righteousness and imparted righteousness. I’d like to explore these briefly today.

You are probably very familiar with imputed righteousness even if you never heard the term before; it most often appears as courtroom language depicting God as a judge. The Heidelberg Catechism, which originated out of Germany in the 1500s and is widely used in reformed (think Presbyterian as an example) teaching speaks of our righteousness in this way: “...without any merit of my own, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, and as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me.” Imputed righteousness is the righteousness that we receive through Christ in which God declares that, through Christ’s perfect obedience and sacrifice upon the cross, we are declared righteous before God. In Wesleyan terms, this is justification; Christ’s righteousness is credited to us.

But Wesley was unwilling to stop there; unlike the other protestant reformers, he spoke of imparted righteousness as well. Imparted righteousness speaks of what is given us that enables us to live righteous and holy lives through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. This is sanctification language; it’s not what God does for us, but what he does in us. John Wesley was concerned that preaching only imputed righteousness without imparted righteousness would lead Christians to live in any way they desired because they could depend upon God’s grace. Think of Paul’s “Are we to continue to sin so that grace may increase?” (Rom. 6:1) This is how he phrases it in one of his sermons: “I believe God implants righteousness in every one to whom he has imputed it...(we are) renewed in the image of God, ‘after the likeness wherein (we) are created, in righteousness and true holiness.’”

Remember what Paul says in Galatians 5:25 “If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” Christ’s righteousness gives us both the right standing before the Father for the forgiveness of our sins and the enabling to live a completely different life than before-oriented toward God and filled with the Holy Spirit as we move on to holiness and perfection.

In Christ,

Matthew Hall

New Prayer Requests

Nolan Rayborn - Critical/Ocean Springs

(Marilyne Browne's brother in law)

Betty Twiner - Health Problems

Danny Hall - Eye issues

Karen Carson - Dialysis complications

Ola Müller - Fall/fractured ribs

Continue to prayer for:

Shirley Dooley, Otha Barham, Francois du Plessis,

James E. Smith, Sharon Stephens, Charlotte Chaney,

Adrian Hill, Brenda Ferry, Neal Martin, Justin Dean,

Jamie Rawson, Ceil Coleman, Tom Sanderford, Jake Warren,

Mitch Raybuck, Robert Phillips, Larry Vick, Nora Goodsell,

Daniel Comeaux, Jim Land, Orvie "Shag" Shannon,

Ike Ethridge, Susie Poole, Shirley Fulton,

David Newell, Sr.

**If you have a prayer request and/or an update
please let the office know.**

December Birthdays

2nd - Brian Smith

4th - Greg Smith

5th - Maliya Fluker

7th - Megan Mendiola

14th - Kristi Brown

16th - Karin Both

19th - Otha Barham

20th - Braeden Smith

James Weeks

21st - Richard Dixon

24th - Hayden Martin

Kevin Peterson

28th - Jessica Hall

January Birthdays

1st Ashley Rue

4th Amy Floyd

5th Jason Baldwin

16th Patti Coxwell

Jan Eggler

19th John Fera

Rebekah Hall

29th Malaea Mendiola

30th Alana Richardson

Sunday, December 15

9:30 A.M. Worship

10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

**Children & Youth Christmas Party
following church.**

Wednesday, December 18

6:00 P.M. Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 22

9:30 A.M. Worship

10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

Tuesday, December 24

**5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service**

*Merry Christmas and
a Blessed New Year!*

Sunday, December 29

9:30 A.M. Hymn Sing

10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

Sunday, January 5th

9:30 A.M. Worship

10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

Wednesday, January 8th

5:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

6:00 P.M. Youth and Children resume

We are fast approaching the end of 2024!

*All monetary giving should be received
by the church office no later than*

Sunday, December 29th in order for you to claim a
deduction for income tax purposes in 2024.

*Anything received after then will be applied to 2025
contributions. Thank you all for your continued support.*

**If you wish to make a monetary gift toward the church staff,
please do so by Sunday, December 15th.**

Mark your gifts as "Staff Love Offering".



The Longest Night Service

December 18th - 6 PM

A church service held on or around the winter solstice to honor those who are grieving. The service is a time for reflection, prayer, and remembrance, and is intended to provide a space for healing and hope during the holiday season.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

December 24th - 5 PM

Invite your friends and family.



HYMN SING

December 29th - 9:30 AM

Volunteer Opportunities

December 15 - Sunday

Greeter: Malaea Mendiola
Counters: Neldia White, Robin Thompson
Sunday Snacks: Nancy Crews, Marilyn Browne

December 16 - Monday

Meals on Wheels: Gary & Robin Thompson

December 22 - Sunday

Greeter: Margaret Yates
Counters: Kevin Peterson, Danny Young
Sunday Snacks: Robin Thompson

December 23 - Monday

Meals on Wheels: Marjorie Walker

December 29 - Sunday

Greeter: Regena Ford
Counters: Cathy Ellis, Jeffrey Rhett
Sunday Snacks: Ginny Adkins

December 30 - Monday

Meals on Wheels: Janet Barham, Carrol Barham

Received from Care Lodge:

Thank you for your faithful support of Care Lodge. Your regular financial contributions are a true blessing, enabling us to provide safety, healing and hope to those in need throughout the year.

Your generosity reflects the love and compassion at the heart of your church's mission. During this Christmas season, your gifts help bring light to families facing difficult times reminding them they are cared for and supported.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Kristi Smith
Community Coordinator,
Care Lodge



Where The Thirsty Find Life

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Maintenance

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December 11, 2024

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To:

The 2024 Bible Challenge

December 11 - Zechariah 13-14 / Revelation 3-4

December 12 - Psalm 74-76 / Revelation 5

December 13 - Psalm 77-78 / Revelation 6

December 14 - Psalm 79-80 / Revelation 7

December 15 - Psalm 81-82 / Revelation 8

December 16 - Psalm 83 - 84 / Revelation 9

December 17 - Psalm 107 / Psalm 126 / Revelation 10

December 18 - Ezra 5-7 / Revelation 11

December 19 - Esther 1-2 / Revelation 12

December 20 - Esther 3-5 / Revelation 13

Poplar Springs Drive United Methodist Church

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