



PARIS TN

Elders

Josh Coleman
Steve Delaney
John McDavid
Rudy Peoples
Michael Williams

Evangelists

Josh Manning
Ethan Schulte

Prison Minister

Ricky Lomax

Deacons

Craig Brown
Phillip Brown
Troy Buttrey
Bob Comer
Jon Davidson
Philip Davidson
Levi Dodd
Brian Foster
Billy Hensley
Adam Killion
Will Little
Mike McDaniel
Jason Smith
Lance Winders

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday AM Bible Study-9:30am
Worship-10:30am
Sunday PM Worship-6:00pm
Wednesday AM Adult Bible Study 10:00
Wednesday PM Bible Study-7:00

Live Radio Broadcast-10:30am
AM 1000, 97.5 FM

Spectrum-Channel 195
Sunday @ 9:00am

Live Streaming Youtube.com
Sunday 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM,
Wednesday 7:00 PM

Sermons: Facebook.com /
ewcofc.com / youtube.com

Office: 731-642-2861
www.ewcofc.com
Bus: 731-642-7751

Sunday AM & PM / Leave Message

E-mail us at:
eastwdco@bellsouth.net

Minister-Josh Manning
email: jpboarder720@yahoo.com

Youth Group: www.ewyg.org
Closed Group

**HEAR THE GOSPEL ON
CABLE TV AND SATELLITE
EACH SUNDAY**

Charter / Spectrum Cable:

6:00am In Search of the Lord's Way-
Channel 15
7:00am In Search of the Lord's Way-
Channel 13
7:30am Preaching the Gospel-
Channel 13

WBBJ-TV/CBS-Charter Channel 708

7:00am A Bible Answer

Dish TV 58 & Direct TV-Channel 30:

7:00am In Search of the Lord's Way
7:30am Preaching the Gospel
8:00am Good News Today

THEME FOR 2023: "O to be Like Thee" 1 Peter 1:7

EVERY GOOD & PERFECT GIFT

by Josh Manning

We have been basing a lot of our December thoughts on James's statement that, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights..." (James 1:17). For this article we are going to think about perfect gifts.

I want you to imagine that you have to get someone a gift. At this point, it could literally be anyone. What do you get them? A few things come to mind as we begin contemplating getting someone a gift. First, we start evaluating our relationship with *this person*: do we know them well, are we acquaintances, or are we talking about a stranger? (Or what about an enemy?) Obviously, we go about getting gifts for loved ones and dear friends differently than when we are being benevolent to strangers. This is true in part because we understand that the gifts we give often encapsulate the feelings we have for the other person. There is biblical precedent for thinking this way: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son", John famously wrote (John 3:16). God's feelings for us motivated His giving.

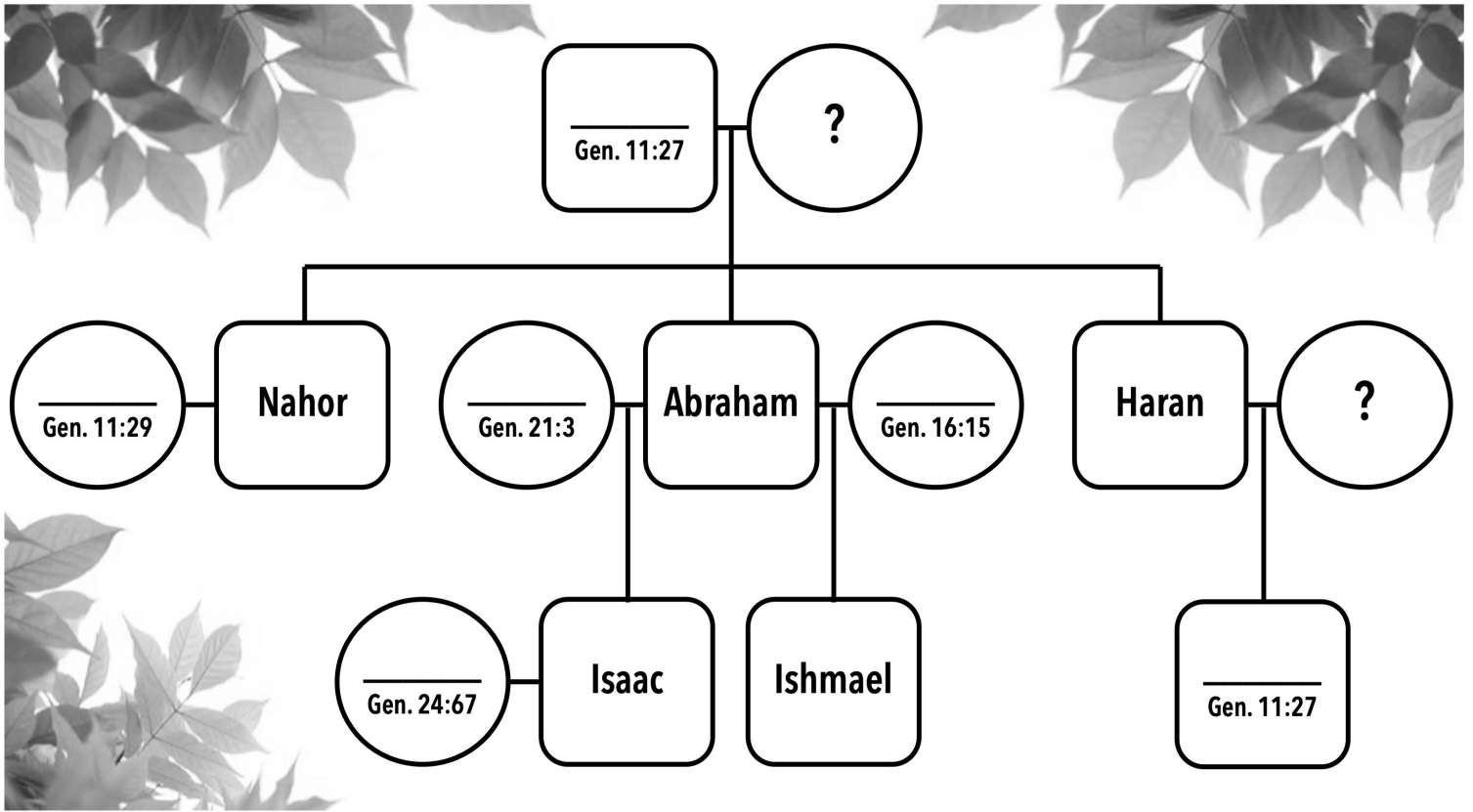
There is another thing we consider, consciously or unconsciously, as we give gifts. Not only do our gifts represent how we feel about the other person, but we also know that the gifts we give reflect something of the character of the giver—me. When I give a gift, I am revealing something about myself. This is why we say (or think) things like, "I can't give someone *that* gift, what will people think?" It is because of these two ideas that we might have trouble finding gifts for people. We want to communicate the right things about our feelings for others when we give gifts, and we also want to be perceived in the best possible light through the gifts that we give. Just think what we would be saying if we gave a gift that had no value at all (e.g. the famous "regift" scenario)? What if the gift didn't cost us anything (in money, time, or effort)? I am reminded of David's giving-attitude found in 2 Samuel 24:24, when he said, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing." A worthless gift is very communicative. It speaks volumes.

Now, add to these thoughts the stipulation that the gift we give must be perfect. Sometimes we talk about gifts as being perfect in a comical way. We see something that the other will love—maybe because of an inside or long standing joke—and we immediately think, "Oh this will be perfect!" But in what way are we using the word *perfect* in that scenario? What we are saying is that it will fit the situation just right. The gift, if a gag gift, will elicit a good laugh! (but then, if a gag gift, it will probably end up in the garbage in the near future). But let's turn our thoughts back to James 1:17. God's gifts are actually perfect. Not in a comical way, but in an eternal way. Looking back at the two points this article made about giving gifts, think about what God's gifts reveal. First, they are designed to reveal how He feels about us, to us. His gifts, His blessings, demonstrate His everlasting love for us. And second, they also reveal to us aspects of His divine and holy character. "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I hope in Him!'" (Lamentations 3:22-24).

STATE OF THE YOUTH

Abraham's Family Tree

Fill in the blank spots on Abram's family tree! Use the Bible verses listed to locate his missing family members!



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Devotional: Sunday, December 17th at Josh and Erin Coleman's home; 4401 Elkhorn Road / Paris. Guys bring drinks / Girls bring desserts.

Dorcas Christmas Party: Thursday, December 21st, at 6:00 PM at the home of Danette Delaney. 189 Jackson Estates Drive. Bring a snack to share and a \$10 gift to exchange.

New Years Eve Lock-In: Sunday, December 31st after PM Service / Pick up at 7:00 AM Monday.

Basics: Saturday, January 6th from 5-8 PM at the home of Ethan & Alyssa Shulte; 1020 Diggs Road / Paris

Evangelism University 2024 (EU): "LOOK UP" January 12-14th, Savannah, TN.

Youth Devotional: January 28th. Guys bring drinks / Girls bring desserts.

CYC 2024 at Pigeon Forge: "FAMILY" February 23-25th. For all 6th—12th Graders.

BIRTHDAYS

Parker Powell

December 28

Taylor Little

January 20

OUR ATTITUDE

Sunday AM Bible Study.....153
 Sunday AM Worship.....198
 Sunday PM Worship..... 98
 Wednesday PM Bible Study.....115
 This week's contribution.....\$6,017
 Weekly Budget.....\$8,506

FOOD PANTRY

Canned Beef, Canned Ham,
 Canned Chicken, Spaghetti Sauce, Soups,
 Canned Fruit, Jelly and Peanut Butter

SUNDAY A.M.

Announcements
 Opening Prayer
 Scripture Reading
 Closing Prayer
 Communion &
 Contribution

DECEMBER 17

Rudy Peoples
 Stan Wilson
 Micah Sutton
 Rudy Peoples
 Steve Delaney

DECEMBER 24

Rudy Peoples
 Troy Buttrey
 Blake Morton
 Michael Williams
 John McDavid

SUNDAY P.M.

Opening Prayer
 Scripture Reading
 Communion &
 Contribution
 Closing Prayer

DECEMBER 17

Javan Winders
 Stephen Blackwell
 Matt Ellis
 Gavin Watkins

DECEMBER 24

Brian Foster
 Steve Durham
 Max Henry
 Charles Clark

WEDNESDAY

Song Leader
 Invitation
 Closing Prayer

DECEMBER 20

Ethan Schulte
 Jason Smith
 Rick Moody

DECEMBER 27

Gary Steele
 Michael Williams
 Phillip Brown

BOYS TO PICK-UP CARDS

Wednesday, December 20th: Ty Davidson and Owen Smith
 Wednesday, December 27th: Gavin Wynn and James Wilson

DECEMBER

USHERS: Levi Dodd / Brad Smith
EAST SIDE DOOR: Adam Killion
CONTROL ROOM VIDEO: Philip Davidson
BENEVOLENCE: Jason Smith / Lance Winders

KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Darla Russell: had out patient neck surgery Wednesday, December 13th; 180 Green Hills Estate Road / Paris
Valerie Wynn: received her pet scan and the inflammatory cancer is localized to the breast and lymph nodes under the left arm; 17095 Hwy 69N / Cottage Grove TN 38224
Stan Summers: began radiation last Wednesday, continuing daily for 6 weeks. Adding Chemotherapy December 21st. Please continue prayers; 250 Whitehead Lane /Paris
Zet Presson: was discharged from HCMC, Friday, December 8th; Rose Stone Retirement Community 4089 Hwy 218 Bypass Room # 8 / Paris

CONTINUE TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mike Bryson
 Leon and Carolyn Bumpus
 Buddy Goad
 Zet Presson
 Peggy Shepherd
 Jim & Darla Russell
 Ray Tucker
 Amanda Alan

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the cards, foods, and thoughtfulness. Your friendships, supports, and concerns are priceless to us. We are so blessed by you. In Christian Love, Jimmy and Valerie Wynn

Dear Church Family, The floral arrangement is very pretty and I will enjoy it very much. Thanks for all the prayers and visits. All the fellowship, prayers and concern helped our family through this death of my dear brother. Love, Helen Wilson and Family

WHAT IS FIA?

Faith in Action (FIA) is a fellowship and visitation program made up of four teams. One team meets each week for fellowship with other team members and receive an assignment to make during the week. Assignments can be personal visits, phone calls, or sending cards. Members can decide what type of assignments they are comfortable performing. After a four month period, the teams are reorganized so members are able to fellowship with a new group of individuals. New teams will form starting January 1. If you would like to be added to a team or if you are currently on a team and need to take some time off during the next four months, please notify Steve or Danette Delaney by Sunday, December 24. New teams will be distributed on December 31 with the first team meeting January 7.

FIA CAPTAINS & COORDINATORS NEEDED

We need four team captains for January-April. If you are willing to take on this responsibility or have any questions about the role, please see Steve Delaney.

The two individuals who make assignments each week are called Coordinators. The duties take about 30 minutes each week to complete. Currently the number willing to serve in this role allows for a two-year rotation. The Coordinator position for January-April is currently vacant. If you are interested in serving as a Coordinator or have any questions, please see Steve Delaney.

Church of Christ
800 East Wood St.
Paris, TN 38242

Non-profit Organization
Postage Paid, Permit No. 38
Paris, TN 38242

Return Service Requested

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Fruit Plates: to be picked up for delivery by FIA Teams 3 & 4, Sunday December 17th, they will be located in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Eiffel Gardens Singing: at 2:00 PM

Adult Ladies Ornament Party: Tuesday, December 19th @ 6:00 PM at Danette Delaney's home. Bring an unwrapped ornament and finger food.

Christmas Eve Service: December 24th Evening Service will be at 3:00 PM.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 17: Eiffel Gardens Singing at 2:00 PM
Christmas Fruit Plates to be delivered by FIA Teams 3 & 4

Youth Devotional at Josh & Erin Colemans home. Guys bring drinks/Girls desserts
Deacons Meeting

December 19: Adult Ladies Ornament Party @ 6:00 PM at Danette Delaney's home. Bring an ornament and finger food

December 20: Fellowship Meal Team B, MPR at 5:45 PM.
Donna Davidson's Team

A CONVERSATION EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO HAVE

by Adam Faughn

There are a lot of important pieces of information and wisdom that help us throughout life. Each of us can look back on our lives and remember conversations that gave us just one bit of wisdom, but that was enough to aid us through a tough time or help us with something that would come later in life.

Today, I want to suggest a conversation that every Christian should have. It won't take but a few minutes, but it might just change your perspective. And it can be with any number of people.

Here is who you go talk to: an older Christian who now struggles to get out of his or her home. Maybe they can on occasion, but only with great difficulty, or maybe they are truly "homebound."

Often, you do not even need to call ahead. Just show up. They will be so happy to see a Christian coming by to brighten their day. And you don't have to stay long. I have found that these visits sometimes wear out those who are receiving them, so just a few minutes is usually appreciated.

But somewhere in those brief minutes, there's one question you need to ask. It's really good, by the way, if your kids or grandkids are with you to hear the answer to this, but I know plenty of parents and grandparents who need to hear it just as much.

Here's what you ask: "Do you miss coming to services?"

Now, they might talk about how they watch a livestream, or they might talk about how it would be difficult. But you are going to get a "yes," and often with tears. The answer will sometimes spill over for several minutes, reminiscing about seeing people and memories that were made and about how much it meant to them to hear sermons and sing songs.

Listen to them closely, and then look at reasons you give for not going to worship. Consider how you don't worship on vacation or a "getaway" trip. Think about how you will miss worship just because it's a pretty day and you'd rather be outside. Let your children hear this while they remember you not coming because you had family visiting for the weekend.

That older Christian wishes with everything they have that they could come into that church building one more time and some of us will use any excuse to not attend.

We've got a lot to learn from those older, shut-in Christians. Make the time to ask them that question. Listen very closely to their heart as they answer. It may not just change your Sunday habits. It may change your eternal destiny.