

Editorial Thought...

MAY GOD BLESS US ALWAYS!

"[God] is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20)



Daniel Seay

How would you define "always". Some would define it as something that *"has no end"*, as if it were a hybrid form of *infinity* – something where there may have been a beginning (up for debate), but – for sure – there is no end (i.e. in a romantic setting, a young man may tell his bride-to-be, "I'll love you **always**" / "I'll love you *forever*"). But could there be another definition?

"Always" originally came from a contraction of the words ALL and WAYS (Scottish *alwayes*, 14th century, German *allerwegens*, 16th century). Though referencing *time length* in latter uses, in its original usage there was an understood "IN" implied, i.e. IN ALL WAYS, implying that that which is being referenced with the qualifier ALL WAYS would, in fact, be understood as: IN ALL [possible] WAYS. So, in our previous reference, it might be phrased this way: *"I'll love you IN ALL WAYS"*. The implication is that there is no limit to the *ways* or *means* by which the young man *loves* his bride-to-be. In this context, *"always"* would refer to a "depth" in quality of love, rather a "length" in duration of love. That understanding changes everything.

By changing the words to "God bless you *always*", might we make a similar application, i.e. a reference to the "depth" of God's blessings, rather than to the "length" (in time) of His blessings for us? Would it not be more profound to infer "May God Bless You In All Ways" (i.e. in every possible way)? And if God did bless us in *every possible way*, what would that mean for our lives?

Paul wrote to the Ephesians that *"all spiritual blessings [for us] are in Christ Jesus" [1:3]*. An exegesis of that verse would tell us that Paul was basically stating: *"All spiritual blessings that God has in store for us as Christians are found in Jesus Christ and will flow – without exception – to us from God through Christ"*. The **depth** of these *spiritual* blessings would be hard to conceive by the human mind. They all emanate from the vast resources and love of God and flow down to us through His Son. They are **spiritual** precisely because they are from God. They are an **"All Ways"-kind** of blessing because they are limitless in scope, depth and privilege. They can certainly be accessed, enjoyed, and shared – but they can not be fully comprehended. That is why Paul prayed to God on behalf of the Ephesians - so that they could have their eyes and minds *spiritually* opened to more fully comprehend the vast blessings God had provided for their spiritual use and development. Listen to what Paul writes in Ephesians 3:14-21:

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from Whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

News And Notes

Our Prayer List

Rob Harris, Susie Moore, Austin Clark, Gwen Gann, LouAnn Gann, Josh Wallace, Josh Werner, Billye Werner, June Brant, Donna Spader, Alice Jones, Diana Nordin, Jeannette Pope, Betsy Pippin, Ray Hearn family, Our Elected Officials and all World Leaders.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
[James 5:16b]

Statistics

For The Week Of November 15th, 2015

Sun3ay Class	17
Sunday AM	29
Sunday PM	25
Wednesday PM	na
Contribution	\$510.00
YTD Budget (46 x \$735))	\$33,810.00
Difference Year-To-Date	-\$1142.04
Savings Account Balance	\$2,027.69

^{2nd} Corinthians 9:12 – "Your generosity is doing great things"

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: Peggy Tucker (20) / **Anniversary:**-McCallie (22)

COMING EVENTS

Thanksgiving Weekend Worship Service

- Next Sunday, November 29th – No 1pm Service -

Progressive Dinner – Saturday, Dec. 12th

- Plan To Be A Part Of This 12th Annual Event!-

GANN FAMILY UPDATE

Norman contacted Dan this past week to say that the funeral arrangements for his sister had been moved to this past Thursday, rather than as was reported last Sunday as having been on Saturday the 14th. Their plans were to leave California immediately after the funeral this past Thursday. Keep the Gann's in your prayers.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY UPDATE

It was good to have members of the Independence Police Department share our worship this past Thursday. We appreciate everyone's help in making the day a great success. And the meal was awesome!!

Agenda For

Sunday, November 22nd, 2015

Theme:

MAY GOD BLESS

Today's Topic:

"May God Bless You Always"

AM Class: *"THE UNIQUENESS OF GOD"* –

Teacher: Chase Harris / *In The Blue Room*

10:30 am: **Eternal Blessings**

Text: Psalm 46:1 / Ephesians 1:3, 3:14-21

1 pm: **A Thanksgiving Blessing**

- Text: -Psalm 145 / Psalm 146-150

Wed. 7pm: *Class Study*

Wade McCallie, Teaching

Special Prayer Requests

Pray Special And Specific Intercessory Prayers For:

June Brant	Gwen Gann
Jeannette Pope	Kinnick Family
Diana Nordin	Allen Sullivan
Billye Werner	Peggy Tucker family
Janice Seay	Ray Hearn
Chris Folster	Roy Bays
Jan Wilson	Paul Aprill
Rob Harris	Sophia Cannady
Josh Werner	Jeanie McDonald
Susie Moore	Vickie McCallie

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Our plans are to host our 12th Annual Progressive Dinner on Saturday evening, December 12th, from 5:30 to 9:30pm. Make plans now to be a participant. Details will follow soon.

Job 1:10 (NIV)

"Have You [GOD] not put a hedge around him [Job] and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land."