



Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM
7:00 PM

www.collinsvillecoc.org

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Gifts You Can Give for Free

During this time of the year, everyone is searching for bargains so they can provide the “perfect” gift to their friends and loved ones. People are willing to stand in the cold for days or tirelessly search the internet to find the “perfect” gift. Did you know there are some gifts we can give to others that are free and it is not difficult for us to obtain them?

1. Give the gift of salvation - Salvation cost Jesus His very life in order that we could obtain it for free. Since we have received the gift of salvation, why not repackage it and give it to someone else? I am sure they would appreciate that gift as much as you have appreciated it. The Apostle Paul explains to the Roman brethren that condemnation came to all through one man (Adam), but then states the free gift is of many offences unto justification (Rom. 5:16). When individuals are saved, they are justified before God. What an incredible gift.

2. Gift of righteous living - Have you ever wondered why God wants Christians to live a certain way? Our lives are to reflect the glory of God so men can see God and Christ living in us (Gal. 3:20). A Christian’s peculiar lifestyle should raise questions among unbelievers which in turn should provide Christians the opportunity to tell them about the free gift of salvation. Paul said he lived his life in such a way that he became all things to all men, so he could save a few (1 Cor. 9:22). Paul offered the free gift to all who would accept it.

3. Gift of service - When the poor saints in Jerusalem needed financial assistance, Paul made an appeal to the Gentile churches to send relief. Paul referred to the financial aid collected as the gift which allowed the Gentile churches to share in the fellowship of the ministering to the saints (2 Cor. 8:4). Our service, whether it be financial help or physical assistance, can be a free gift from which fellow Christians or non-Christians could benefit. Of course our service is to be done for the right motivation. We do not give in order to receive praise and

accolades here because our reward will be given at the resurrection of the just (Luke 14:14).

The lives of those who receive these gifts will be blessed beyond measure. Why not give these free gifts throughout the entire year?

-K.A. Pugh

As I looked out the window preparing to leave for the office yesterday morning, the sun was shining brightly. It was a cloudless day. Yes. Yesterday was a beautiful day. Had I not known better, I might have thought it was a bright summer day, except, of course, for a little snow here and there. Indeed, I was quickly brought back to reality when I walked into the cold garage and backed the car out. The outside temperature on a cold, frigid day registered only seven degrees. Many times we are deceived by what things seem to be. A reality check is always helpful in bringing us back to our senses.

So it is with our spiritual lives. Too frequently people are willing to accept what seems to be. They are willing to look at the appearances or to be led by their feelings. What is needed is a reality check that comes from truth. One needs truth to bring them back to their spiritual senses. When that truth is obtained, one must then accept it for what it is and act upon it.

The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.
Ps 12:6 ESV

Friend, feelings and appearance are not always what they seem to be. God’s word is. His word is true. Read it. Study it. Meditate upon it. Then, follow it as your guide.

Have a great week. Hold fast to truth. Be safe.

TLM

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