

The Correspondent



SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsville-troycoc.org
(618) 667-6708

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

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Goodbye, But Not Really -Jason Wright

A few weeks ago, we had the opportunity to worship with Mike and Susie Wyatt in Tennessee. They wanted me to pass along how much they missed and loved the Collinsville church. That next week, an announcement was made that Mike and Susie would be moving into their new house. Along with six trailers and trucks, 40 people moved the Wyatts that night into their new house...Mike was overwhelmed and choked up.

Paul reminds us that God has blessed us with every (all) spiritual blessing in the heavenly in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). There are two blessings that really stand out from the opening paragraph...relationships and goodbyes.

My most meaningful relationships are within the church. The scriptures teach on our relationships with one another. *Love each other* (1 Peter 4:8); *encourage one another and build each other up* (1 Thessalonians 5:11); worshipping together in the assembly *stirs up love and good works* (Hebrews 10:24-25). Thank the God of Heaven for the Church!

Another blessing is that goodbyes do not have to be. No matter what happens in this life, we can be together for eternity with the God of Heaven, His Son, and Spirit. What a glorious day that will be! Those sojourners that are mentioned in Hebrews 11 knew something better was waiting. *For he* (Abraham) *waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God* (v.10). *But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. He has prepared a city for them.* (v.16) Peter understood a thing or two about his heavenly reward...*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you; in this we greatly rejoice*" (1 Peter 1:4-5).

Shouldn't Christians be the most positive, content, and happy people the world faces on a daily basis? After all, we have all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3). We have a God who loves us (John 3:16). We have brethren ready to bear our burdens and bring us encouragement (Galatians 6:2). We have hope of an eternal home in heaven (Colossians 1:5). So, brethren, let's count our many blessings.

You never know when the last time you see someone will be the last time; at least in this life. So, as we were leaving the church building, Mike and Susie gave us one last hug and said their goodbyes. I couldn't help but think *Good Bye, but not really!*