

Edgewater United Methodist Church

2020 Stewardship Campaign

“Blessed by God to be a Blessing”

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).

As managers and stewards of all that God has entrusted to us, we have been blessed abundantly. Though perhaps some have been blessed more than others, all of us — without exception — have been and continue to be the recipients of God’s blessings.

We are entering into our annual stewardship emphasis entitled, “Blessed by God to be a Blessing.” During this time, we will consider how God has blessed us, the reasons for God’s blessings, and what our response should be to God’s goodness.

On a daily basis, God provides for us. God gives the seed, along with rain and sunshine to cause the seed to grow. God gives health, strength and life itself. God gives wealth and the ability to acquire material possessions. And God gives grace and eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ to all who look to Him in believing faith.

Did you ever stop to consider why God blesses us so abundantly? He does so for one simple yet profound reason: Because He loves us. In fact, the prophet Jeremiah tells us that God has loved us with an “everlasting love,” that is, His love knows no beginning and no end. It is God’s love for us that causes Him to provide for us all that we have. And Christ demonstrated the Father’s love by dying on the cross of Calvary to redeem us “while we were still sinners” (Rom. 5:8).

What should be our response to God’s love and provision? In spite of King David’s observation that all things come from God, some might conclude that because of their lifestyle, family background or social standing, they deserve God’s beneficial treatment. Others might reason that their good works entitle them to be the recipients of God’s blessings. But all of our noble efforts and supposedly righteous deeds, when done in our strength, amount to no more than what the prophet Isaiah called “filthy rags.”

Still others might conclude that God made a mistake in determining their place on the economic spectrum, so they spend their time and energy trying to help God correct that error. Whether fretting daily over financial matters, diligently searching for a “get-rich-quick” scheme, or engaging in some activity that will allow them to win large sums of money, their dissatisfaction with God’s provision causes them to get sidetracked spiritually.

The mature Christian, however, realizes that God is the Source of everything, that God owns everything, and that all that we have is in one way or another a blessing from God. The mature Christian seeks ways to use God’s gifts to bless God and to be a blessing to others. And the mature Christian accepts with a spirit of contentment and thanksgiving what God has provided.

As you consider how God has blessed your life, please seek His direction concerning how you should respond. Remember, we have been “blessed by God to be a blessing.” Or as one anonymous author put it so succinctly, “The greatest blessing comes to the one who freely gives and expects nothing in return.”

Additional information about our Stewardship Campaign will be in your mail and our weekly bulletins.