

December 5, 2024

UNUSED GIFTS

One of the worst side effects of the commercialization of the Christmas season is the amount of unused gifts. I am under the impression that there are some companies that exist just to make gifts that are never used. Which makes sense, considering a total 5.4 billion dollars is spent on about 104 million unwanted gifts each year. According to a poll from the Daily Mail, we receive an average of eight Christmas presents each year and hate two of them. Men most dread receiving gaudy ties and ridiculous Christmas sweaters while women dislike diet books and tacky ornaments. Some even end up being great gifts, but simply go unused. People buy exercise equipment for Christmas to be used in the new year and by June it is in a yard sale. Other times, the gift may be well thought out and quite useful, but it gets lost in all the boxes and paper and ends up hidden on a shelf. Some are highly valued but mistreated by the recipient.

God has offered mankind some amazing gifts; some are appreciated, some are not. Some are embraced at first, and then discarded. Others are completely unused. In **James 1:17** we are reminded, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Paul also goes on to say in **1 Corinthians 4:7**, "What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?" Everything that you have has been given to you by God. Unfortunately, there are many of these gifts that we leave un-utilized or underutilized. I would imagine at the top of the list of unused gifts from God would be our own brains.

Each one of you who are reading these very words were blessed by God to receive a brain. It has been estimated that the human brain can store over 2.5 million gigabytes, and the average brain thinks anywhere from 50,000 to 80,000 thoughts each day. Although these are great numbers and statistics, are we utilizing it properly? Much like a college athlete who had every shot at the pro's but blew it over drugs, cheating, or simply quitting, many have such a powerful gift from God in their head yet never actually use it as it was intended. So, what is our brain designed for anyway?

First off, God designed our brain to consider things. Unfortunately, many do not spend time considering how much they are truly wasting. When God commands Israel to rebuild the Temple, He addresses this exact problem. **Haggai 1:5-6** says, "Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of

hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes." Not only are we supposed to consider our actions and steps with our brain, but we are to seek knowledge and be willing to study to find it (**Proverbs 15:14,28**). But once we are able to study and find the knowledge of truth, we are to test, examine, and meditate on that truth to make sure that we are obedient to it and that we are in it. **2 Corinthians 13:5** says, "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" We see what the brain should be meditating on as well in **Philippians 4:8** which says, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Unfortunately, this isn't how many want to use their brain today. They would rather use their brain to get ahead of the competition and put others down or to make money fast and spend it even faster on reckless living that does nothing but shorten an already short life. Others don't use their brain at all and simply go with the flow of what someone else in society tells them. But that is not why God gifted us with a brain. **Romans 12:2** says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." He did not design our brain to follow blindly, but to search out the truth in all matters and that truth is found in His son. Jesus said in **John 14:6**, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." and Jesus is the truth that should captivate the completeness of our mind (**2 Corinthians 10:5**). So, during this holiday season, when you open that present that you already know you're not going to use, take a moment and make sure that you are using what God has gifted you with.

Andrew Spivey

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and faithfulness!
Psalm 115:1

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES Sunday Read – John 2 Wednesday Read – John 3; Luke 3:19-20

Questions for last week's reading of; **Matthew 3 & 4:1-11; John 1:29-51**

Questions:

1. What kind of clothing did John wear, and what kind of food did he eat?
2. Why was Jesus baptized, and what did God say?
3. What were the 3 temptations the devil tempted Jesus with, and what were the Scriptures Jesus used to answer him?
4. Name Jesus' first four disciples.
5. What name did Jesus give Peter, and what did it mean?

UPCOMING EVENTS

*** 4:15 Singing class every Sunday***

Truth Seekers every Sunday @ 5pm

Dec 8th – Cookies with Santa @ 3:00pm

Dec 10th – Ladies Bible Class @ 6:30pm at Senn's house

Dec.25th – Merry Christmas

(church office closed Dec 24th & 25th)

Dec. 29 – 5th Sunday Singing/evening service

Jan. 1st – Happy New Year
(church office closed)

BIBLE TRIVIA

Bible Trivia will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 5 p.m. The theme for Bible Trivia is **Heroes, Villains & Sidekicks**. Hero Sub Sandwiches will be provided. Make plans to come and bring a side dish and, or dessert. **Sign up sheet in foyer.**

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The next Ladies Bible study will be on **Tuesday, December 10th from 6:30 - 8:30 PM at Valarie Senn's house, 116 Higginson Place North, Gallatin.** If you would like to ride the van to Valarie's house, please meet at the church building by 6:15. Please bring cookies and an ornament if you would like to participate in an exchange.

ORDER OF SERVICES SUNDAY

December 8, 2024

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song Leader.....Bob Brown
Opening Prayer.....Kevin Siler
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Johnson
Scripture Reading.....Ben Hutson
Song Leader.....Bob Brown
Opening Prayer.....Tim Strickland
Lord's Supper.....Charlie Seals
Servers.....M. Lyle, M. Ellis, Z. Tooley
J. Sever, J. Johnson, C. Suddarth
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Brent Smith

4:15 Singing Class

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Johnson
Song Leader.....Bob Brown
Opening Prayer.....Carl Newby
Sermon..... Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Garrett Rowlett
Closing Prayer.....David Thompson

WEDNESDAY

December 11, 2024

7:00 PM

Welcome.....David Johnson
Song Leader.....Bob Brown
Opening Prayer.....Tony Butler
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Jim Cherry

Ushers for December.....T. Cummins/A. Williamson
Communion Care for December.....C/P Newby

Door Greeters – West Door.....J/L Cherry
East Door.....E/D Stephenson

Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Diana Stephenson

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935
Church Office.....615-452-3431

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 Gallatin, TN 37066
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

SICK LIST

Syble Johnson is home. Olene Anderson, mother of June Thompson, has returned home. Ida Lou Sherrill mother of Alex Sherill, is in rehab at The Waters of Gallatin, Room 407. Myra Rasnick, mother of Meredith Andrews, had surgery for a broken fibula. Jean McCurdy, mother of Olivia Nelsen, had surgery for breast cancer. Surgery went well. Wanda Mathewson, a former member has returned home after a stay in hospital for cellulitis. Ethan Huffard son-in-law of Carl & Pam Newby has completed his chemo treatments. Larry Bailey, son of Tina Bailey a former member, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. He has begun chemo.



PRAYER LIST

Hugh Fulford; Maddie Andrews; Mary Spivey; Charlie Cliburn; Ottis & Maxine Cothron; Sara Hosman; Shauna Lockett; Tony Perry; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Shelby Ross; Sandi Jones; Lena Baggett; Pat Watson; Frances Catron; Charles & Jackie Williams; Pat Crump; Scott Seals son of Charlie & Wanda Seals; Ethan Huffard son-in-law of Carl & Pam Newby; Heather Lemley daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley; Jean McCurdy mother of Olivia Nelsen; Elaine Reynolds, friend of Christie Coleman; Alan Greene, nephew of Carl & Pam Newby; Bethany Shoulders, granddaughter of Evelyn Harris; Samantha Hager, friend of June Thompson; Vycki Puckett, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato; Ty Tyler son of Ann Tyler; Wade Kennedy father of Diana Stephenson; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; Taylor Lackford, niece of Brenda Veale; Dustin Lackford, nephew of Brenda Veale; Larry Conley, friend of Wanda Proctor; Harold Cole, friend of Lena Baggett; Bobbie Carter, sister of Janice Johnson; Walter Wooten, brother of Wanda Sherrill; Aza Topik, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals.

SHUT-INS

Jean Deaton, Mary Spivey

We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	89
Morning Worship.....	167
Sunday Evening.....	65
Wednesday Evening.....	72
Contribution.....	\$7,711.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$5,125.00

Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621

Deacons

Carl Newby Jonathan Senn Brent Smith
 Eric Stephenson Adam Williamson



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Email: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
 TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister
 GARRETT ROWLETT, Youth Minister