

You Are My Portion

By: Josh Blackmer

Among the people of the earth, the Israelites had a special relationship with God. Even among those in the tribe of Levi had a special service which drew them into a closer relationship with God than their brothers. The descendants of Aaron were to be the priests and the rest of the tribe were to serve and participate in taking care of the tabernacle (**Num. 18:1-2**). God provided for them since they were exclusively working in His service. Chapter eighteen of Numbers talks at length about how God was going to provide for the Levites. In it He makes this statement, “Then the LORD said to Aaron, ‘You shall have no inheritance in their land nor own any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the sons of Israel’” (**Num. 18:20**). This emphasis that God was to be our portion or sustenance is something that is repeated in the Old Testament.

In the Psalms, we see this theme. “My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” (**Psa. 73:26**). “I cried out to You, O LORD; I said, ‘You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living’” (**Psa. 142:5**). Even in the book of Lamentations, “‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I have hope in Him’” (**Lam. 3:24**). This passage was the majority of the text for the song, “The Steadfast Love of the Lord.” The word “portion” is connected with the concept of an

inheritance or payment. The sentiment that is being communicated is a complete trust in God and in His provision.

This ability to completely trust in God is central to Paul’s secret of being content. “Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (**Phil. 4:11-13**). He can do all things through Him who provides our portion. This is what Jesus was trying to teach on the mountain. “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?” (**Matt. 6:26**). Nature teaches us that God is the provider. Every morning we have a reminder of His provision in the sun, which, if it or we stopped spinning, we would all die. Yet, we are not worrying about it because God is faithful.

We are children of a faithful provider. We need to live with the words, “God is my portion,” on our lips. How much of what we worry or get anxious about would be dissolved? The secret of contentment is trust in God, the provider.

“Whatever You Do, Don’t Miss Heaven!”

Selected Article

There was an old preacher who loved his children dearly and longed for them to live right. As they grew older, he did not want to browbeat them or make them think he was always “preaching at them,” so he looked for a way to lovingly and gently encourage them. He came up with his own heartfelt catchphrase, “Whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!”

As each child graduated and moved out of the house, he heartily urged, “Whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!” As they began to experiment with the “pleasures” and the “ways” of the world, he gently implored, “Whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!” Then, as they all gathered around his bed, with tears in their eyes, watching their adoring father take his last breaths on this side of eternity, they heard him whisper again, “Whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!”

What sage advice! Consider how this should become the motto for each of us!

When Satan comes calling, whatever you do, don’t miss heaven! There is certainly a momentary pleasure to be found in sin, but Moses learned to weigh temptation in the balance and see the lasting pleasure in “the reward” that awaited him (**Heb. 11:24-26**). View every temptation through the eternal ramifications that it can have.

When considering the one whom you will marry, whatever you do, don’t miss heaven! When the children of Israel moved into the temporal Promised Land of Canaan and married those of a different faith, “they forgot the Lord their God” and “served their gods” (**Judg. 3:5-7**), and they missed the eternal Promised Land of heaven. View your future spouse through the eternal impact he/she will have on you.

When considering your choice of career and your choice of hobbies, whatever you do, don’t miss heaven! Some things in life (like a job) are a necessity; some things in life (like hobbies) are optional. Yet, all things in life (whether we consider them necessities or options) must be evaluated in light of that which is “earthly” and that which is “eternal” (**2 Cor. 5:1-8**). View every decision of life through the eternal effect that it will have on your soul.

When considering the place of the church in your life, whatever you do, don’t miss heaven! The church cannot take a secondary role in your life, off to the side, with occasional attention, for Jesus taught that we must “seek [it] first” (**Matt. 6:33**). View the priority to which you give the church through the eternal magnitude that it will have on you.

Friend, what is heaven worth to you? Have you “set your mind on things above” or “on things of the earth” (**Col. 3:1-2**)? Whatever you do, don’t miss heaven!

Upcoming Events

TONIGHT: Youth Devotional at the building hosted by the Siegel’s after evening worship.

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Nancy Dorries who is in the hospital.

Joyce Faires who continues to recover from wrist surgery.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Service Roster

Week of November 13, 2022

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading Kirk FitzSimmons
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer Fred Scherffius
Closing Prayer Will Burleson

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread Kevin Sheeran
Cup Doug Jobs
Offering Mike Atkinson
Assist Jack Jobs
Assist Willie Fossati
Assist Luke FitzSimmons

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer Steve Randle

Lord’s Supper & Offering Doug Jobs, Kevin Sheeran

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Brandon Starling
Song Leader Rick Bass
Devotional Lupe Escojido

Other

Prepare Communion Siegel Family

Congregational News

Birthdays

Hazel Pawlik Nov.18

Anniversaries

Herb & Valerie Ramsey Nov. 18

Reminder: Please pick up contact information stickers for new members on the table in the foyer for your pocket directories.

Food Helpers for the month of Nov. - Team A.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by
the word of God.”
Romans 10:17

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of November 6, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....72
A.M. Worship.....110
P.M. Worship.....59
Wednesday Bible Class.....64

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
B.K. York *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

midtown
CHURCH OF CHRIST

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
361-573-0030

midtowncoc.org

Weekly Communication! To receive the *Midtown Messenger* and other congregational news to your inbox each week, please email events.midtowncoc@gmail.com.