

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MBC:

1. Our “Who We Are: Identity, Theology & Practice” class will be meeting this Sunday at 11:00am in the Sanctuary.
2. Our next Communion Sunday is October 26th. If you are interested in joining our church that Sunday, please fill out a new visitor's card digitally or at the welcome table.
3. On Saturday, November 8th from 2:00-4:15pm, there will be a Ladies Afternoon Tea. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, tea, and encouragement to live thankful lives from our guest speaker. Bring a sweet or savory tea time treat to share.
4. To prepare for the preaching of the word on this coming Lord's Day, we would encourage you to meditate on the passage ahead of time. The worship service's sermon will be from 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediating offices of the Son of God. Jesus Christ, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon himself our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins. We believe that He was raised from the dead and He is now enthroned in heaven, seated next to the Father, and, uniting in His wonderful person the tender sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior. Eph. 2:5; Matt. 18:11; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; Acts 15:11; John 3:16; 1:1-14; Heb. 4:14; 12:24; Phil. 2:6-7; Heb. 2:9, 14; 2 Cor. 5:21; Isa. 42:21; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 4:4-5; Rom. 3:21; Isa. 53:4-5; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 4:25; 3:21-26; 1 John 4:10; 2:2; 1 Cor. 15:1-3; Heb. 9:13-15; Heb. 1:8, 3; 8:1; Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 7:25; Col. 2:9; Heb. 2:18; 7:26; Psalms 89:19; Psalm 14.

WISDOM: “There was a day when I died to George Muller; his opinions and preferences, tastes and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval or blame even of my brethren or friends; and since then I have striven only to show myself approved unto God.” – George Muller

WORD: “*Rights Are Things to be Sacrificed*”, 1 Corinthians 9:15-23

Suggested questions:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:15-23. Was there anything that particularly challenged, impacted, or confused you from this Sunday's message?
2. Explain the concept of “serve and surprise.” What are some “surprises” you could plan in your areas of responsibility?
3. What are some obstacles that might prevent you from evangelizing an unbeliever or encouraging a believer? What sacrifices could you make to overcome those obstacles?

DIGGING DEEPER: Who Will You Serve and Surprise This Week?

<https://www.challies.com/articles/who-will-you-serve-and-surprise-this-week/>

Who Will You Serve and Surprise This Week?

Tim Challies

I am a dutiful person who is usually happy enough to carry out life's basic responsibilities. I am a husband with responsibilities toward my wife, a father with responsibilities toward my children, a pastor with responsibilities toward my congregation, a neighbor with responsibilities toward the people who live around me. My success as a husband, father, pastor, and neighbor is dependent upon being dutiful in all of these relationships.

Dutiful is good, but not good enough. Living well involves duty to be sure, but it also involves delight. Living well is made up of those things I must do, but also those things I get to do. For this reason I take time every week to consider each of life's areas of responsibility and to ask not only how I can be dutiful in that area but also how I can express delight in it. I do this by asking a simple two-part question: How can I serve and how can I surprise? (I owe "serve and surprise" to a series of articles written by C.J. Mahaney.)

Like most people, I live within a kind of system that brings structure to my life. I spend a few minutes each morning getting my day organized, deciding which of the many things I could do today I actually will do—or at least attempt to do. Once each week I take a look at life in a broad way, and this is where I prayerfully pause to ask, "How must I serve this week and how can I surprise this week?" Or "What have I got to do this this week to fulfill duty and what do I get to do this week to express delight?"

The question of service is usually quite simple. To serve my wife I need to ensure I am present in body and mind, to serve my children I need to ask them about their friendships and to make sure they are completing their homework, to serve my church I need to be present at our services and to come well-prepared to lead them, to serve my neighbors I need to spend time with them. Those are all good and basic duties that fall to me, and I am happy enough to carry them out. But I want to be more than dutiful. I want to go beyond the basic duties of my life to also express delight. I don't want to merely serve but also to surprise.

The question of surprise takes a little more thought and creativity. It requires me to know others and to understand what brings them joy and pleasure. How can I please Aileen and let her know that she is loved? How can I surprise my children and bring them joy? How can I express delight in my church? These are the kinds of questions I ask and then, in one way or another, I answer them by turning them into actions or plotting them into time. I may choose to take certain actions in the week ahead: Buy flowers for Aileen. Rent a movie with the kids. Send a gift to someone in the church. Or I may choose to reserve time on my calendar so we can do things together: Take Michaela out for breakfast. Have a family night of silly games and activities. Invite some church families over for Sunday lunch. These actions and activities go beyond basic service to pursue and express delight.

Do you see it? Life is never less than duty, but at its best it is so much more. Duty usually comes easily enough whereas delight requires thoughtfulness, effort, and creativity. Duty can be impersonal—the duty of one father toward his children may not differ very much from the duty

of another father toward his children. But delight is customized and requires study, it requires personalized knowledge.

If we are to live in such a way that we bring glory to God by doing good to others, we owe it to them to serve and surprise, to fulfill duty and express delight. So who do you need to serve and surprise in the week ahead?

1 Corinthians 9:15-23

¹⁵But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. ¹⁶For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.