



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Messenger

*“PROCLAIM CHRIST, MAKE DISCIPLES, SERVE THE LORD”*

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625 W. Gibson Road, Woodland, CA \* Phone 662-1935 \* December 2018

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## *PASTOR'S MESSAGE*

Dear Saints at St. Paul's,

At the risk of sounding selfish, I never liked the saying, “It is better to give than to receive.” Giving requires sacrifice and receiving involves obligation to either return the favor or go and do the same. These thoughts reveal my cynical sinful self. I thank God for his Word. It has subdued and taught me over the years to think before I open my mouth, and has pointed my actions and attitudes to a more Christ like course of action.

The saying is found at the end of Acts 20:35

*In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

The point made is that we are to be examples first, we are to act first, without expectation of payment or expecting anything in return. (See Matthew 10:8 ...*freely you have received; freely give.*) God has done so much for us that we should do for others.

What does this do? God calls us to be in relationships with others. God desires for us to serve each other. Youth/children often say “Life is not fair.” And I agree and that is part of life. Into an unfair world God sent his Son Jesus, to serve and love and take away our sins. Maybe our most amazing blessings that we have is to love and serve others because Christ loved us first. We too can be an example of his love. Giving, serving, forgiving, showing patience, and kindness that God has shown to us and we also can show to others.

Here is my prayer for us all: God help us to love and care like you loved and cared for us.  
–Amen.

Many Christmas blessings to you as you bless those around you!!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor David Hardin