

Treasures In The Snow

Rodney Nulph Medina church of Christ Medina, OH

Snow can be a beautiful thing to behold. Now wait a minute; I know not everyone has a love for snow like I do! However, even if you despise it, consider the fact that snow has brightened the eyes of children anticipating snowball fights, making snowmen and sleigh riding . It often brings back nostalgic feelings of times gone by. And it often causes us to slow down and change our hurried, fast paced plans (which may be a great thing!). Snow can be either a good thing or a terrible thing, depending upon our outlook. However, whether you love it or hate it, there are numerous treasures found therein.

God posed a unique question to the questioning Patriarch of old, "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?" (Job 38:22a). This question was no doubt one that was intended to cause Job to reconsider his present attitude. Job was certainly an upright man (cf Job 1:1), filled with endurance and patience (cf James 5:11). However, Job failed to fully understand that God is Omniscient (all-knowing; 1 Sam 2:3, Psalm 139:1-6, 147:5, et al). Obviously, our thoughts are not even comparable to our Creator's (cf Isaiah 55:7-9)! Thus when we fail to see the good in a thing like snow, God can. "Treasures in the snow" are numerous, even for our limited human comprehension. Let us note Just a few.

Firstly, snow teaches us about PREPARATION. Usually when a winter storm is announced people flock to grocery stores to stock up on bread, milk and other essentials. Few, if any, of these last minute shoppers even think about buying extra until the storm is nearby. Also, tire shops become inundated with snow tire shoppers as soon as the first flakes begin to fall. Salt and anti-skid materials are sold out as soon as these little flakes appear. From snow tires, to groceries and anti-skid, few people are prepared when winter's storms emerge. Similarly, few people prepare for life's storms until they become reality, and then it is often too late. Jesus spoke of the danger involved in a lack of preparation (cf Matthew 7:24ff). Snow teaches us the importance of adequate preparation, what a treasure!

Secondly, snow teaches us about PURITY. Snow has a unique whiteness all its own. Of course, white represents purity. As the snowflakes fall, they are pure and free from contaminates, but soon the world begins to rub off on those little flakes and they become blackened by soot from fireplaces and stained with mud. How disheartening it is to see something so pure and free from stains become so black and discolored. Similarly, each person who is born into this world "falls to earth" pure and free from any of sin's blackening contaminates (Ezekiel 18:20). However, shortly thereafter the world's blackness rubs off-on them and they are no longer pure and free from stain (Romans 3:10; 23, Galatians 3:22). When a person sins for the first time, it is as if they were snow in the middle of a heavily used pasture field. They become black from sin's stain and are no longer white with purity (Isaiah 59:1-2) However, thankfully God can make us white as snow again if we simply obey Him (Isaiah 1:18-20). Snow teaches us the beauty of purity what a treasure! .

Thirdly, snow teaches us about POTENTIAL. One snowflake accomplishes little when all alone. But when all the snowflakes get together, they close schools, roads, and businesses. When snow joins together, they can shut entire Interstates down and cancel flights around the world. Snow is a powerful force when it unites together. Likewise, one Christian cannot accomplish near the good that a group of determined Disciples can (Matthew 28:19). In fact, beautiful is the word that God chose to describe unity among HIS people (Psalm 133:1). "Even freckles would make a good tan if they could get together"! How much better would we look (Matthew 5:13-16), if we were as united as snowflakes? Snow teaches us the potential of unity, what a treasure!

Although most folks despise driving in it, walking in it, shoveling it, and even seeing it; snow is certainly full of wonderful treasures. Next time you see snow (just open your eyes) think of the Preparation your soul requires, think of the Purity that you have lost and that you can gain once again through obedience to Christ, and see the Potential that unity and cooperation can bring. May you and I consider the "Treasures in the snow"!

NEWSLETTER

Jan. 01, 2017

Mark Dailey, evangelist
(716) 754-2752

minister@lasallechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:45 AM

Sunday AM Worship 11:00 AM

* Sunday PM Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday PM Bible Class 7:00 PM

La Salle
church of Christ

1121 N. Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
(716) 283-1214

lasallechurchofchrist.org

** There is no PM service on the 5th Sunday of the month.*

Ladie's Bible Class
Tuesday - 10 AM at the building.

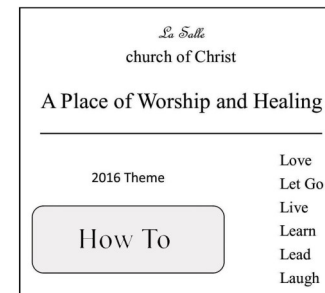


We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you) so we may have a record of your visit. Later in the service we will pass around a collection plate. As a visitor you are obviously not expected to give but we would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in the collection plate. Thanks.

There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs for infant care.

Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent during worship.



Potter Children's Home & Family Ministries
2350 Nashville Rd.
Bowling Green, KY 42101
270 843-3038
potterministries.org



Speaker
Phil Sanders
www.searchtv.org

Time Warner Cable Channel 20
Tuesday 5:30 AM
Friday 4:30 PM

We offer a **free** Bible Correspondence Course

Prayer List *In our prayers let’s praise God, recognize His greatness, and thank Him for His blessings.*

Those that attend: Joe Pitts, Mildred Lynum, Bill Flanagan, Anna Brink, Red & Goldie Crow, Frank Marsden, Bill Kinney, Pat Hazlett, David Alcorn, Willow, Darlene Reed, Leo & Jeanne Johns, Butts & Edie Sumner, Rick & Fran Fees, Jodie Kelly, Chris Highway, Keith & Glory Marten, Bev McArthur, Candi Butcher, Cheryl Mellott, Ron & Jean Cameron, Joyce Cameron, Carol Jones, Tahlia Willis, and Brenda Nelson.

People in other places: Jennifer Walters, Renee Kinney, Diane Fritton, Tim Mellott and family, Billy Stine, T.J., Wednesday Rahelich, Congressman Ted Poe, Doreen Woods, Betty Leistner, James Proctor, Stephanie, Carol’s sister Holly, Frank’s niece, Sheila Donkley, Laval Baptiste, Mary Lou, Mila Roche, Tony & Eglá Grana, Patrick, Susan Barrett & family, Lula Hall, Jack Openshaw, Sue Garner, Liz Holton, George Kohlbacher, Karen Anstee, Bob, Patrick, Randy Marten, Jeff Elder, Bobby Granton, Sherry Allen, Remi Perini, Isabella Rick, Pat Ferrio, Doris & Mary Jane Mess, and Sandy Kriesel.

Updates:

Sandy Kriesel, Sharron Gantt’s daughter, had surgery recently and is recovering well.

Betty Leistner is at Roswell Hospital and not doing well. Prayers are requested.

Mary Jane Mess is now a patient at Elderwood in Williamsville. She suffered a fall recently. Her mother **Doris Mess** is at Northgate.

TJ, Anna Brink’s nephew in Penn, had a blockage affecting dialysis treatments and he had surgery Thursday to take care of that.

Also

Let’s pray for family, friends, and loved ones of our members who are having health and other problems.

Let’s not only remember those that are physically sick but those that are spiritually sick as well.

Let’s remember to pray for our shut-ins and to call and send cards.

Let’s pray for those dealing with family situations as well as work situations.

Let’s pray for those of our number who are looking for employment.

Let’s pray for those who may be traveling.

Let’s pray for the work we help support in Sardinia, NY and also Rogers City, MI.

Let’s pray for God’s people that are doing mission work all over the world.

Let’s also pray for Tim Nelsen and his family whom we are helping support while Tim is in preaching school.

Let’s pray for people the world over that we may all learn to get along with each other.

Let’s give thanks to God for the Edmond, OK congregation for all the help they have given us.

Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

- Jan. 01** New Years Day
- Jan. 15** Men’s Business Meeting
- Jan. 16** Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 21** Men’s Breakfast 8:30 AM
- Jan. 29** Area-wide Singing Hosted by Linwood church of Christ
- Feb. 05** **Potluck** (Groups 1, 2, & 3 to setup & cleanup)

Reminder

There will be no Potluck today.
The next scheduled Potluck is Feb. 05.

Sun. PM Class	Revelation 15-22
Wed. PM Class	Ecclesiastes

Trays Today: *Sherry Carter*

Happy New Year 2017

Welcome to Tim Nelsen

Tim Nelsen is visiting with us today.
He will be teaching class and preaching the morning sermon.

Ongoing Events

Personal care items for the vets at the V.A. Hospital in Buffalo and also non-perishable food items for Casey House on Cedar Ave. in N.F. are being collected. If you can help in this matter it is greatly appreciated.
Zambia Baby Fund - Several members are contributing to this.

Several Christmas / Holiday greetings have been received
and we've posted them on the back bulletin board.

Rick & Fran Fees left Wednesday for Florida.
Their new address and also their email is posted on the message board.

A Success Story

Pat McIntosh Grandbury St. church of Christ / Cleburne, TX

Most of us like to read success stories. If we have an area of ambition, we look to those who have succeeded in that field of endeavor, hoping to find insight as to how to be successful in that venture ourselves. Success stories are designed to be emulated and to provide encouragement for those struggling in a given area.

In the Parable of the Talents, we have both a success story and what must be seen as failure. There are three servants portrayed in the story told by Christ in Matthew 25:14-30. Two of the servants are highly successful, doubling that with which they have been entrusted by their owner. However, one of the servants is clearly portrayed as unsuccessful, having simply buried that with which he had been entrusted. Rather than shoulder the responsibility for his failure, he began to make excuses, even challenging the character of the master in his defense.

Thus, we have both a positive and negative message drawn from the same parable. On the positive side, we are shown that God expects something of us, and will reward us according to the ability we may have. Those with greater blessing have greater responsibility. There is no excuse for remaining inactive. We have all been given some abilities and are expected to use them. To refuse to do so is to fail, based on the words of Jesus in this parable.

May we all realize that we are truly blessed. We have been given one or more talents and all have the ability to do something. May we realize the importance of the need to perform these abilities and seek opportunities to glorify His name in our endeavors. If not, we will answer for that in the judgment.

At the end, will our "story" be one of success or failure?