

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

“BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT”
By Pastor Terry Laughlin of CrossRoads Church

Seldom in history have so few words been spoken with so much meaning. The Beatitudes of our Lord are powerful, holding before believers and unbelievers alike a descriptive picture of the true disciple of Christ. The Beatitudes cover the glorious hope and are a reward that the Christian can expect now as well as in eternity. These Beatitudes regularly consist of two clauses, the first pronouncing blessedness upon a certain type of person, the second giving the reason or grounds for such blessedness.

The first of the eight Beatitudes is “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3)

To be poor in spirit is not poverty-stricken, financially poor, or having a lack of courage. It is a spiritual poverty, acknowledging our utter dependence upon God for our spiritual needs. Knowing that our spiritual needs and even all of our mental and physical needs can only be truly satisfied through a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The poor in spirit realize that they are unable to respond to life's trials and temptations in a way that is pleasing to God unless He enables them to overcome them.

The opposite of being poor in spirit is having a spirit of self-righteousness—the “self-made man” syndrome. There is a world of difference between these two spirits. The spirit of self takes charge and will not surrender to the leading of the Holy Spirit. There is an eternal difference between good works

that bring glory to a denomination, a church or ourselves, compared to true righteousness that points people to a personal relationship with Christ. Being religious is not the same as being poor in spirit. Self-righteousness leads to death, being forever separated from God. A person who is poor in spirit rests

upon the righteousness of Christ alone, and is empowered by Christ to live a life of holiness. He knows that the only good thing in him is Christ. “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 6:14)

Two critical steps are taken by the person who becomes poor in spirit. 1.) He turns his primary attention away from this world and the things in it. His love is for Christ and for the things of God. 2.) He turns his primary attention to God and to His kingdom. His purpose is to lift up Christ in all he does by the way he lives his life. His focus is upon ways of proclaiming the gospel and reaching the lost for Christ. He is willing to sacrifice himself for the cause of Christ for he has a heartfelt burden for those who are without the Lord Jesus.

The poor in spirit receive God's forgiveness and a vibrant fellowship with Christ. They have life eternal and joyfully serve the King of kings forever. They have no fear of falling, nor will God need to break their pride. God will guide, protect and use them in many different ways.

Are you truly poor in spirit? Are you a “self-made man” or a Christ-made man? “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourself therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.” (1 Peter 5:6)

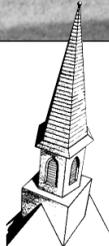
There seems to be a continual search for the “fountain of youth”. We seek out all kinds of ways to keep our minds and bodies youthful. We look in nutrition stores and health spas; we explore cosmetic procedures that hold the tides of time at bay. We search for ways to keep relationships renewed.

What keeps the love of a long married couple fresh and “new”? If asked, they might tell you that each still sees the other as the handsome young man and the beautiful young woman who they fell in love with so long ago. Lasting love is forever young.

“Praise the Lord, ... who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed...” (Psalm 105:5). Visit your house of worship this week and praise the Lord with your beloved. Satisfy your desires and renew your youth!



THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Romans 14:1-12	1 Corinthians 1:1-17	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	1 Corinthians 16:1-24	2 Corinthians 1:1-11	Galatians 6:1-18	Colossians 3:1-17

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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Extension specialist answers questions about avian flu

The Avian Flu has been in the headlines recently due to many outbreaks in Asia. Is this type of flu a food safety concern because it involves poultry?

There is no evidence that anyone has been infected with the Asian bird flu or other bird flu virus by eating properly cooked eggs or other cooked poultry products derived from infected birds. Cooking food to 160 degrees F. will kill bird flu virus if it is present. Close contact with infected birds has been the primary route of transmission for the Asian bird flu infections, rather than eating food derived from infected birds.

Although strains of bird flu virus can result in the contamination of egg shells and the inside of the egg (the yolk and albumen or the egg white), hens with severe bird flu usually stop laying eggs, so few contaminated eggs are likely to be marketed. Furthermore, the U. S. Government has taken steps to prevent infected birds or their products, including their eggs, from entering the U. S. Food supply.

What is known about fraudulent Avian Flu therapies?

The Federal Department of Agriculture has issued nine warning letters to companies that claim to have products that could be effective against avian flu and other flu

Home ed
Tranda Watts,
Extension
specialist



viruses. There is no evidence that these claims are true.

Eight of the products purported to be dietary supplements. Examples of the unproven claims cited in the warning letters include: “prevents avian flu,” “a natural virus shield,” “kills the virus,” and “treats the avian flu.” These alternative therapies are promoted as “natural” or “safer” treatments that can be used in place of an approved treatment or preventative medical product.

If you have further questions about avian flu, talk with your family doctor, contact your local K-State Research and Extension Office, or e-mail twatts@oznet.ksu.edu.

Tranda Watts is Kansas State University extension specialist in food, nutrition, health and safety for Norton, Decatur, Gove, Sheridan, and Trego counties. Call her at 785-443-3663 or e-mail twatts@oznet.ksu.edu. For more information, contact the county extension office, 877-5755.

WHISPERING PINES

By CYNTHIA KINDALL
 Lois Dietz attended the Valley Hope Carolers on Dec. 21.

Dorothy Bernard went to Liberal on Christmas Eve to stay a few days with Jerry and Beth Metcalf. They went on to Hutchinson to see Dorothy's newest grandson born Dec. 26. Dorothy returned home Dec. 29.

Residents celebrated New Year's Eve with a party. Attending were Alice Vogt, Aggie and John Vehige, Priscilla Johnson, Hazel Bates, Elva Lindenman, Philead Nelson, Lucille Stackhouse and Melvin Hanchett, staff attending were director Cynthia Collins, Donna Millan and Cynthia Kindall, guest was Allen Kindall. Board games and pitch was enjoyed by all with Lucille Stackhouse and John Vehige winning bottles of sparkling grape juice and Hazel Bates winning the container of fruit for low prize.

We would like to welcome to our family Elva Lindenman. She has fit in quite well as she likes to play cards and is always out for activities.

Mabel Malcolm went with her family for supper on Jan. 11. Family joining her were Jim Malcolm from Colby and Bill and Carol Malcolm from Hutchinson, Carrie Malcolm of Whispering Pines and Wes and Frances Whitney, Sylvia Whitney from Norton. All enjoyed a birthday meal for Mabel at the Attitudes restaurant that is operated by Richard and Janet Myers, Mabel's niece and husband.

On Jan. 8, Shirley and Jim Malcolm were here and Shirley played the piano for Mabel's enjoyment.

Jack and Jerry McKay and

Linda of Lenora ate dinner with Lois Dietz on Jan. 18 her guests.

Kansas Day, and we are 145 years young. Reason enough to enjoy a film slide show from the Northwestern Kansas Library System—those coming to see it on Jan. 22 were: Elfriede Kelly, Philead Nelson, Beth Bryant, Marie Ritter, Lois Hildebrand, Elva Lindenman, Carrie Malcolm, Betty Reid, Hazel Bates, Lucille Stackhouse, Aggie and John Vehige and Doris Stump. They all agreed it was a good selection from our state, as many of our residents are transplanted Jayhawkers.

Philead Nelson has a new great-grandson that we would like to welcome.

Some of our activities this month will be our annual Valentine King and Queen Contest on Valentine's Day. At 2:10 p.m. we will unveil this year's royalty.

On Feb. 3, we had our regular bingo game heart-style with the prizes being only red, pink and white in color. Once the residents were convinced it was just bingo with the heart across it was interesting and fun!

The Rev. Lew Van Der Wege comes for communion the first Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. The Andbe Home residents came for coffee on the ninth.

Our birthdays this month include: 19th—Barbara Smith, 21st Dolly Tyrell, 27th Doris Stump and the 28th Carrie Malcolm.

As usual our monthly coffee will be from 2:30 to 4 pm. on the Feb. 22. This would be a great time to tour the facility. Everyone is invited to come, look and have coffee and cookies.



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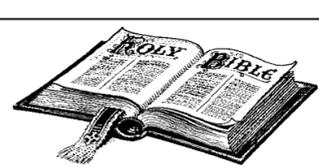
ANNUAL CONSIGNMENT Auction

Consignments are now being taken for the annual farm and farm related consignment auction. Consign your vehicles, machinery, tractors, trucks, livestock equipment and other related items for the March Auction. Consign early for advertising and to have your items placed on the sale bill. Several nice items are already consigned.

Consignments may be done by calling:
 McMullen & Wyatt Auctions at 785-877-3299 or
 Donald 785-877-2028 or Robert 785-877-2731



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