

Dear Families:

Today in Sunday School, we talked about the gift of salvation as discussed in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. There is a big difference between a gift and a prize. A prize is something that you earn; you work hard to achieve a goal. A gift is freely given out of love. You do not earn presents, you get presents because someone cares. Salvation is a gift from God; we cannot earn our way into Heaven. We aren't good enough. God gives that gift to all of us freely, and purely out of love.

That being said, Paul also reminds us that to show others the gift of salvation, we need to be workers for God. Good works are a part of our faith. They don't get us into Heaven, but they do help to accomplish God's work on Earth and fight against the works of Satan. Good works are something Christians do to spread the news of God's gift to all people.

This week's Lenten focus is simplification. We get so caught up in our works that we often forget to remember the gift! Throughout this week, take time to remember the wonderful gift we've been given. Tell God thanks for our many blessings. List them by name. Cut out things that aren't necessary to accomplish right away. Give that time to God instead. List all of the things in life that you really DON'T need as well! If we have God, we are good! We don't need the new car or cup of coffee. Find some peace and quiet in your week to say thanks for our ultimate gift!

The youth had their candle-making day during Winter Break. They made 40 candles to sell, with all proceeds going towards the support of Literacy of Love. We have 23 candles left! The candles are being displayed in Fellowship Hall. They are \$5 each. The kids did a great job! Please consider purchasing a candle to support their ministry.

Thank you for joining us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director