

Newsletter February 2021

From Heaven's Heart

"Thank you, From Your Heavenly Father"

Jesus said, "Love others as much as you love yourself." He called this the second great commandment after the first, loving God with everything.

I'm sure that if we give it our best to get the first one right, "Love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength"...that's everything; in time, we will begin to get the second one right. As a matter of fact, I've seen this happen since Covid began about this time a year ago.

Here's what I've seen with my own eyes: Proof Positive for me that God, that Jesus Christ, is alive and well and working in the hearts of all believers...especially you.

Covid shows up, and not knowing what else to do, we shut down our worship services for a while, came up with a safety plan and began worshipping in person once again. So far, so good. I believe for more than any other reason, our folks are practicing what we've been asked to do, and it's working so far. Why you are doing it, I believe, is because you love others as much as you love yourself. By using the mask, staying apart, using hand sanitizers, you are doing it more for others than for yourself. Thank you.

2nd... you've continued to give your offerings to the church to support our staff and our other operating costs and our missions to the Salvation Army and other places that need our support to operate and to meet the needs of those who have much less than most of us. Thank you. Your actions prove that you love others more than you love yourself.

3rd...I've watched the food and supplies you bring for the Salvation Army not just continue but to multiply many times over. Wanda and I used to make a delivery once a month. Now, we are making a delivery most every week because you are loving others more than you love yourself. Shallow Ford Church is becoming very popular at the Salvation Army. In addition to the food, because of your faithful financial giving, we are sending them regular offerings that they need to pay their bills and they are remaining healthy. Thank you. You are loving others more than you love yourself.

4th...This year's virtual Christmas Eve Service was a huge success. Karen and the parents of our young people worked hard at planning, practicing and recording music and special readings and Mike put in countless hours mixing everything together for this special service. I'm pretty sure we had the largest number of folks watching on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day ever. The comments we received were so positive as folks were able to worship with us from home as families, together, and have communion, watch the candle lighting, pray together and hear a message from God about Christmas...about the birth of our Lord and Savior. Thank you. You are loving others more than you love yourself.

And last...God promises because you are working hard to make God first in your life, to give Him your life and to love others more than you love yourself...He promises to bless you here on earth...but more importantly...He holds in reserve for you eternal blessings forever. Forever is a long time. For what you are doing so faithfully right now...for others...for your church...God says, don't worry about the future. You'll love what's coming. Blessings beyond your wildest dreams. The Bible says, we can count on God's promises. He will deliver when we obey Him. Keep loving Him with everything and keep loving others more than you love yourselves by doing. The doing is what matters. Thank you. Keep loving and keep giving and watch what God will do for you and for others. Thank you, thank you, thank you, from your Heavenly Father who loves you more.

With the deepest love for you and for others,

Pastor Steve

PS A big thank you to our adults who provided your beautiful music on piano, violin, organ, and guitar for Christmas Eve making it our best ever. You gave as you shared your talents and gifts with others.