



Light of Christ Anglican Church

THE BEACON

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The Rev. Mike Moffitt, Rector



August 2023

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Let your light so shine be
fore men that they may see your
good deeds and praise your
Father in heaven.



Mike's Message

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:1-3

I suspect that most people reading this will remember the 1970 movie, "Love Story" starring Ryan O'Neal and Ali McGraw. I still remember the basic premise of the movie, but the thing I have never forgotten is the line, "love means never having to say you're sorry." Even as a 16-year-old I knew that was simply not true.

The idea was that when you are so madly in love (another phrase I find puzzling) that whatever happens, whatever you do, it's alright and there is no reason to apologize. Really? If you decide to live by that credo in marriage or friendships your relationships will not last long. There are many uses and definitions of the word "Love" and they can contain a variety of meanings or applications, but it's important that we differentiate between them. A good example is Paul's use of love in Ephesians 4:2, which is "agape" which is defined as "affection, good will, love, benevolence, brotherly love".

After 50 years of marriage, and some close friendships that I've had for longer than that, I have had countless reasons to apologize for my words or actions that have hurt or offended others. The apology required that I seek to not commit the same action or words where an apology was called for. The same thing is true of Paul's use of the word "unity" in verse 3. In the Greek it's the word "henotes" which means, "unanimity, agreement". We need to understand what love and unity look like according to how God defines their meanings. The reason is that inevitable wrongs will occur between people in God's family, and we must be willing to love one another and act with patience so that our witness both in and outside the church will not work against God's purpose of bringing all things together in Jesus.

Early church father John Chrysostom defined patience or longsuffering as the spirit that has the power to take revenge, but never does. It is characteristic of a forgiving, generous heart. Paul exhorts God's people to be eager to maintain the unity of the Holy Spirit that will bond us together in Christ. This humble, forgiving attitude towards each other naturally fulfills this gift of the unity of the Spirit. We will never be able to attain this on our own. God never commands us to create unity among believers. He has created it by His Spirit; our duty is to recognize it and keep it. It's also crucial that we define love and unity

Continued

according to the Word of God. This is a spiritual unity, and as we have experienced, it's not necessarily a denominational unity. When the demands and definitions of love or unity are defined by the godless culture there will be conflict.

Today, many of those who have fallen away from historic Christianity have done so because they haven't rejected God's word as having authority over our lives. Their primary goals are that all people are free to live according to their own desires and in order for there to be unity everyone must embrace and celebrate the lifestyles of those around them. To not agree with that principal is to be considered rigid, unloving, bigoted, judgmental, and out of step with what is now considered enlightenment. One of the ways they have been able to dupe many is by redefining the meaning of words like love, unity, and peace.

One of the most helpful ways for Christians to understand how the word of God defines the "unity of the Spirit" is by understanding what it is not. In a sermon on Ephesians 4:1-3 Charles Spurgeon pointed out some of the things that the text does not say.

- It does not say, "To endeavor to maintain the unity of evil, the unity of superstition, or the unity of spiritual tyranny."
- It does not say, "Endeavoring to keep up your ecclesiastical arrangements for centralization."
- It does not say, "Endeavoring to keep the uniformity of the Spirit."

We are confident that this unity is found in Jesus Christ, by the Spirit of God. "We want unity in the truth of God through the Spirit of God. This lets us seek after; lets us live near to Christ, for this is the best way of promoting unity. Divisions in Churches never begin with those full of love to the Savior."

Scottish biblical scholar F.F. Bruce in his Commentary wrote; "For the church fellowship in which the Gentile and Jewish believers were united was no mere enrollment on a register of membership; it involved their union with Christ by faith and therefore their union with each other as fellow-members of his body."

Blessings

Volunteers Needed for Meals-on-Wheels!!!

In 1993, while members of St. Stephen's, Howard and Lynn York became volunteers of the Northumberland County Meals-on-Wheels. They have served as coordinators for the past 30 years, and have recently handed the reigns over to me.

We now have 6 volunteers to cover about 18 deliveries during the year. Our goal is to have 9 volunteers so that each

volunteer will deliver only twice a year. The routine for the delivery is to pick up meals at the United Methodist Church in Heathsville, between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. on Monday, and deliver to 10-14 households in Northumberland County.

It takes me about 4 hours to deliver, but I'm sure a younger person could do it faster. I have been doing the deliveries on my own, but several of the folks like to pair up with another volunteer or a spouse.

If you would like to help, or have questions, contact me at hoytalan@atlanticbb.net or at 804-244-6918 (voice or text).

Thank you for your time.

Hoyt Wheeland



Senior Warden Report

Sweet Light of Christ Family,

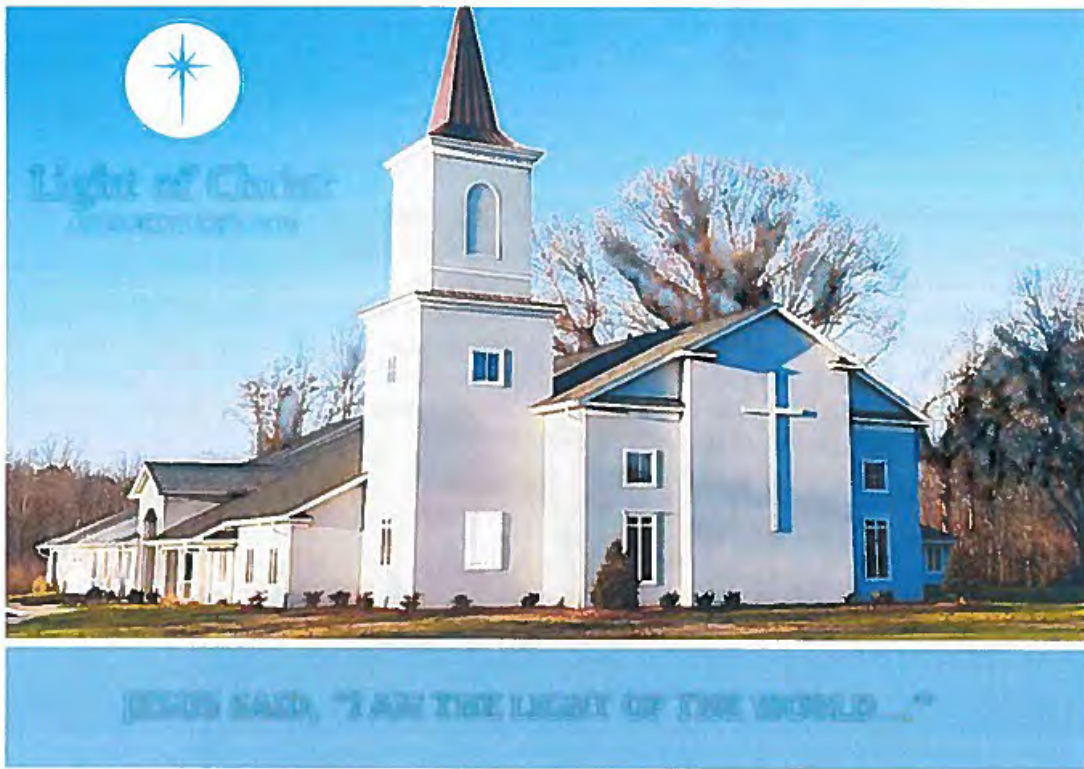
In my Men's bible study today, we read Philippians 1:12-14 that says, in part, "I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel." In context, Paul is in prison and chained 24/7 to a Roman guard. Instead of inhibiting the advance of the gospel, Paul's circumstances actually resulted in the advance of the gospel! This was encouraging, of course, but the thought of "advancing the gospel" - the good news of salvation freely given by God in Christ - is what stood out. Like a front line of an army in battle. Christians should be eager to advance this "good news" into hostile and hopeless territory. This is our goal as Christ followers. This is our goal as a church!

One way that we at Light of Christ can "advance the Gospel" is to invite friends, family members, neighbors and strangers to church. Invite them to Dinner & Movie Night and to our Heathsville Farmers' Market booth. Invite them to one of our Bible studies/classes and FaithYoga listed in the bulletin.

Toward this end, the vestry is inviting you to help us redesign our church brochure! Our old trifold brochure (you can find one on the visitors table in the Narthex) is very outdated. We were also thinking of changing this to a post card sized design that is easier to hand out. **See example on the next page.** If you have graphic design talent or ideas or can anyway help in this redesign please let any member of the vestry, Mike or Joyce know that you would like to help. We look forward to hearing from you!

God bless,

Doug Ludeman



LIGHT OF CHRIST
ANGLICAN CHURCH

We believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God - true, consistent, complete, and the only trustworthy source of knowledge about God and His will for the world He made. Every worship service is a celebration - an opportunity to praise God, be blessed by His Word in Holy Scripture and receive the sacramental blessing of Holy Communion.

Light of Christ Anglican Church is a member of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic and the Anglican Church in North America.

LIGHTOFCHRISTVA.ORG 804-580-4555
9500 NORTHUMBERLAND HIGHWAY HEATHSVILLE, VA 22473

*"I am the Light of the world; he who follows
me will not walk in the darkness, but will
have the Light of life." JOHN 1:9*

Grandma Gives Incredible Advice

There are time in life when you just want to curl up in the fetal position and cry.

You feel broken like you don't have the strength or the desire to go on. Maybe your boyfriend or girlfriend cheated on you, or you've been fired from a job. Everything hurts so badly that you don't see how things could ever get better.

This simple story can help. It illustrates the best way to handle adversity and how we can take those challenges, disappointments, and overall bad things that happened to us, and use them to create better versions of ourselves.

A young woman was visiting her grandmother one day and telling her how difficult her life was. She had discovered that her husband had cheated on her.

"Gran, I give up. I'm just not strong enough to fight anymore. Everything seems to be going wrong and when one problem is resolved, another one ten times worse happens. I swear I'm done."

Her grandmother looked at her, dried her tears, and brought her into the kitchen. There, the grandmother filled three pots with water and put them on the stove. When the pots started to boil, she placed carrots in the first pot, eggs in the second, and ground coffee beans in the third.

The young woman and her grandmother didn't say anything and just watched them boil. After about twenty minutes, the grandmother turned off the heat from under all the pots and brought the contents of each out, and put them in bowls.

"Tell me what you see," the grandmother asked.

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," the granddaughter replied thinking her grandmother's mind wasn't as sharp as it used to be.

"Feel the carrots," the grandmother told her granddaughter. "Then take an egg and break it. Lastly, take a sip of the coffee".

The granddaughter did as she was told and then asked, "What are you trying to tell me?"

"You see, honey, each of these objects faced the same adversity and each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the scalding water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile with only a thin shell protecting its liquid interior, but after sitting in boiling water, its inside had become hardened. The ground coffee beans were different than the other two--instead of being changed by the water, they had changed it."

The granddaughter nodded her head in agreement and wished the science experiments in seventh grade had been as instructional.

"Which one are you?" The grandmother asked her granddaughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you react? Are you a carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity; do you become soft and lose your strength; or are you the egg that starts out with an adaptable heart but changes with the heat?"

Do you have a fluid spirit usually, unless something bad happens like a death, a breakup, or job loss, and then you become hardened and inflexible? Do you look the same on the outside, but inside do you become bitter and tough?"

The granddaughter was listening and trying to make sense of every word her grandmother said.

"Are you like the ground coffee beans that actually changed the hot water, the very circumstance that brought the pain? When the water gets hot it releases the wonderful coffee smell and takes on the flavor of the coffee. If you're like the bean, when things are at their worst, instead of giving up, you get better and stronger and change the situation around you," the grandmother explained.

The young woman hugged her grandmother and with clarity went to go talk to her husband. As she was almost outside the door, her grandmother said, "Be the coffee, honey. Always try to be the coffee."

In the end, the happiest of people don't necessarily have the best everything, and every day isn't found with lollipops and unicorns--it's just that happy people make the best of whatever comes their way.

The brightest future is built on a forgotten past. It was a wise person who gave this great life advice: you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failure and heartaches.

Don't let adversity knock you so low that you can't get up again. Try to learn from it, forgive if you can, and know that trials help make you strong, sadness keeps you human and happiness helps make you sweet.

Christine Schoenwald is a writer, performer, and frequent contributor to YourTango. She's had articles featured in The Los Angeles Times, Salon, Bustle, Medium, Huffington Post, Business Insider, and Woman's Day, among others.

How Good is the God We Adore

How good is the God we adore!
Our faithful, unchangeable friend;
his love is as great as his pow'r
and knows neither measure nor end.

For Christ is the first and the last;
his Spirit will guide us safe home;
we'll praise him for all that is past
and trust him for all that's to come.

Joseph Hart

Plenty of Proof

There are more than 300 predictive prophecies in the Old Testament Scriptures concerning Jesus that were recorded centuries before He was born. Each was accurately fulfilled. Unlike modern predictions, not one of the predictions concerning Jesus missed the mark. Have you ever seriously analyzed the implications of those signs?

Peter Stoner, a renowned mathematician, calculated the odds of just eight of the 300 predictive prophecies having been fulfilled accidentally in the life of one man. The odds are one in ten to the seventeenth power (a ten with seventeen zeros following it!).

I used my computer to do a few calculations in order to make that huge number sink in a little more sensibly. A dollar bill is six inches long. It would take 10,560 dollar bills laid end-to-end to extend one mile. The moon is about 239,000 miles from the earth. Thus, it would take 2,523,840,000 dollar bills laid end-to-end to extend from the earth to the moon.

That is a little over two and a half billion. But as incredibly large a number as a billion may appear to be, the number that Peter Stoner calculated (ten to the seventeenth power) is simply mind-boggling. If one possessed that many dollar bills, he could lay them end-to-end and stretch them from the earth to the moon nearly forty million times (39,622,163). Looking at it differently, those bills could add up to about twenty million round trips to the moon! And that is only eight of 300 predictive prophecies!

We have little excuse to disbelieve the claims of the Word of God concerning Jesus Christ.

REMINDER: Northern Neck Christian School Bingo at the Lottsburg Womens Club the 2nd Friday of every month, **6:30-8:30 p.m.** - 15 games, \$15, Cash prizes. We post a large sign at the club the week of Bingo....just in case people forget the date. **Next date is August 11th.**



Join us for a great time while supporting NNKCS!

What is Growing in Your Garden

Change takes time. Peter's life displays a man who developed spiritually over years with ups and downs. Yet time was not the only factor in Peter's development. Left to time without proper care and nourishment, stagnation comes, and life that once was present will die out. Peter grew because his lifetime was spent cultivating his relationship with God. Foundational to that goal is seeking to understand who God has revealed Himself to be through His word. Peter affirms his belief in the importance of knowing God through scripture in places like Matthew 16:16; Acts 2:14-36, 3:13-26, and 10:42. In fact, his final recorded charge is about the connection between knowing Jesus and knowing Scripture. "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen" (2 Peter 3:18).

Jesus taught the importance of the word of God in the parable of the sower (Luke 8:4-15). The best gardens begin with good soil. But without something to plant, it is just some nice dirt. The seed is where life begins. In Jesus' parable, the soil is the heart of a person (Luke 8:15). The seed--that which gives life--is the word of God (Luke 8:11). Three of the four soil types--pathway, rocky, weedy--all represented different reasons to end up with the same end: no final crop. The seed never produced and the plants eventually died. Yet, the word of God planted in a good heart can yield "a hundredfold." Any farmer would love a soil like that! That is the kind of soil that you KEEP putting seed into. Planting God's word is never a one-and-done concept in our lives.

It is God's word, constantly planted within us, that makes proper change possible. The Psalmist's blessing to the one who delights in the law of the Lord is a lasting, fruitful life (Psalm 1). James' command to receive the implanted word has the effect of salvation (James 1:21). We learn to love from a pure heart because we have been born to imperishable seed (1 Peter 1:22-23)!

Change takes time. But it is only through a constant planting of God's word in our lives that will produce healthy change. Change that is able to "discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable, and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

Is the word of God growing in your life and mine? Or are there some other seeds that have been sown that are unnecessarily taking the place of His word? What is growing in your garden?

*Logan Summers
Graeber Road Church of Christ
Rosenberg, TX*



Northern Neck Christian School

Member of the Anglican School Association
July 2023



Building Dreams, Transforming Lives – Join Our Capital Campaign



NNKCS new home in Montross

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our capital campaign in support of the Northern Neck Christian School (NNKCS). Our vision is to provide an even greater educational experience for our students and impact more lives for the Kingdom in our community. Light of Christ, with your support, we can build a brighter future together that reflects our foremost desire: *To know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others.*

At NNKCS we have witnessed the transformative power of Christ-centered education on the lives of children and their families. Our continuing mission to provide a high-quality, integrated Christian worldview education to families who would not ordinarily have access to private schooling has guided us for these past 4 years. Now, we are embarking on a new chapter in our journey. Like the children of Israel exiled in Babylon, and as followers of the Way we are strangers in a strange land. A key goal of NNKCS is to equip a new generation of Daniels who will rise in obedience to engage and transform the culture to the honor and glory of God. Your contributions to our capital campaign will enable us to expand our facilities, enhance our programs, and reach even more families desiring this precious opportunity.

Building Dreams, Transforming Lives and Investing in the Future

Initial Phase:

Our Goal: Our capital campaign aims to raise **\$105,000** to fund the following initiatives for Building Renovation: the plan is to renovate 5 of the existing 11 rooms to accommodate our growing student body and provide them with a stimulating learning environment.

1. Renovate and update 5 classrooms with new flooring, mini-split units, furniture, paint.
2. Purchase of Non-CDL, 14 passenger shuttle bus.
3. New playground for toddlers and elementary students.
4. Signage on road at front of building.
5. Renovate a room for a chapel.
6. Install security, internet, and Wi-Fi.
7. Furniture for infant and toddler room (cribs, changing tables, play pen, toys, etc.)
8. Repair/install gutter system to move water away from the building.



Parents and LOC members are working hard to get the school ready

Funding Goal—\$105,000



\$30,000 raised



2-MONTH CALENDAR

****REMINDER: Every Thursday, Thursday, June 1 at 2 p.m.: Mike will be in Covenant Care Group meetings and unavailable.**

AUGUST:

Tuesday - 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	"Behold Your God" Class	6 p.m.
Wednesday - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Intercessory Prayer	10 a.m. - noon
Wednesday - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Bible Study - "From Dust to Glory"	1 p.m.
Thursday - 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 1, 11, 18	Zoom Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Friday - 4, 11, 18, 25	FaithYoga (all are invited)	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 11	NNKCS BINGO	6:00 p.m.
Friday - 28	Dinner & Movie Night	5:30 p.m.
Saturday - 19	Heathsville Farmers' Market	9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER:

Monday -	Labor Day - Office closed	
Tuesday - 5, 12, 19, 26	"Behold Your God" Class	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 6, 13, 20, 27	Intercessory Prayer	10:00 a.m. - noon
Wednesday - 6, 13, 20, 27	"Dust to Glory" Class	1:00 p.m.
Thursday - 7, 14, 21, 28	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 8, 15, 22, 29	FaithYoga (all are invited)	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 8	NNKCS BINGO	6:00 p.m.
Friday - 8, 15, 22	Zoom Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Friday - 29	Dinner & Movie Night	5:30 p.m.
Saturday - 16	Heathsville Farmers' Market	9:00 a.m.

OCTOBER:

Tuesday - 3	RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE	12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday - 10, 17, 24, 31	"Behold Your God" Class	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 4, 11, 18, 25	"Dust to Glory" Class	1:00 p.m.
Thursday - 5, 12, 19, 26	Todd Lewis Bible Study	1:30 p.m.
Friday - 6, 13, 20, 27	FaithYoga (all are invited)	1:30 p.m.
Friday 13	NNKCS BINGO	6:00 p.m.
Friday - 27	Dinner & Movie Night (last for 2023)	5:30 p.m.
Saturday - 21	Last Heathsville Farmers' Market	9:00 a.m.

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Acolytes

Aug 6 Constance McDearmon
Aug 13 Anna Brennan
Aug 20 Marie Carstensen
Aug 27 David Gwaltney

Lessons/Prayers

Aug 6 Charlaine Andrulot (L), Susan Read (P)
Aug 13 Tony Blackstone (L), Joan Blackstone (P)
Aug 20 Jeanne Hickey (L) Jim Conley (P)
Aug 27 Hoyt Wheeland (L), Marie Carstensen (P)

Chalice Bearers

Aug 6 Constance McDearmon
Aug 13 Anna Brennan
Aug 20 Marie Carstensen
Aug 27 David Gwaltney

Chiming of the Hour

Aug 6 Phyllis Parrish
Aug 13 Jim Conley
Aug 20 Elizabeth Lambertson
Aug 27 Bill Andrulot

August Birthdays

Aug 8 Bart Morrison
Aug 10 Mike Moffitt
Aug 18 Cindy Fife
Aug 20 Jane Wrightson, Tony Blackstone
Aug 24 Charlotte Hundley
Aug 29 Jeanette Cralle
Aug 31 Anna Brennan

*O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon these your servants as they begin another year, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Altar Guild

Aug 6 Anna Brennan
Aug 12 Constance McDearmon
Aug 20 Anna Brennan, Wendy Smith
Aug 27 Julie Pritchard, Elizabeth Lambertson

Tellers

Aug 6 Pam Smith, George Beckett
Aug 13 Pam Smith, Phyllis Parrish
Aug 20 Pam Smith, Mickey Jennings
Aug 27 Pam Smith, Susan Read

Vestry Person on Duty

Aug 6 Hoyt Wheeland
Aug 13 Doug Ludeman
Aug 20 Constance McDearmon
Aug 27 Doug Ludeman

No August Anniversaries

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants named above, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



LOC WORSHIP MINISTRIES NEED YOU!



We have people covering multiple duties during Sunday worship services, which makes scheduling very difficult. We also deal with the additional fifth Sundays, vacations, choir duties, coffee hour setups, etc., which only adds more to the stress for those that take their duties seriously.

We need the following: Acolytes, Lesson Readers, Prayer Readers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and Altar Guild.

Please think about helping out, if only as a substitute. You don't have to be a member of the church and you can set your own schedule. We can work around your availability. Training is available. Contact Mike Moffit or the office.

Thank you,
Joyce Williams

Those who leave
everything in
GOD'S HAND
will eventually see
God's hand in
everything.

The Beacon
LIGHT OF CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 609
9500 NORTHUMBERLAND HIGHWAY
HEATHSVILLE, VIRGINIA 22473

*The deadline for the Beacon is the
third Sunday of each month.*



Bible Quiz

1 Timothy 4:1-8

1. In _____ times some will _____ from the faith.
2. Two doctrines said were lies were _____ to marry, and commanding to _____ from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving.
3. "For every _____ of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with _____; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."
4. Paul told Timothy to exercise himself toward _____.
5. "For _____ exercise profits a little, but godliness is _____ for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

1 Timothy 4:9-16

1. "This *is* a _____ saying and worthy of all _____."
2. True or False: God is the savior of some men.
3. "Let no one despise your _____, but be an _____ to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."
4. Who laid hands on Timothy in v. 14?
5. "Take heed to yourself and to the _____. Continue in them, for in doing this you will _____ both yourself and those who hear you."