

Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).

God Almighty, blessed us with the gift of salvation in and through His one and only Son, Jesus. God blessed us with His Son because He loves us, and our right response to this blessing is to love God and to love one another. “Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from His love? Then love one another.” (Philippians 2:1-2) The note in the Amplified Bible expands on the use of the word love in this passage: “The key to understanding this and other statements about love is to know that this love (the Greek word agape) is not so much a matter of emotion as it is of doing things for the benefit of another person, that is, have an unselfish concern for another and a willingness to see the best for another.” Showing others agape love is intentional. It is action-oriented. As our speaker so aptly concluded, our proper response to the love of God and the blessing of salvation in His Son Jesus is to become a blesser of others.

Our speaker gave the challenge to bless the following three people this week:

- A person who does not know Jesus, that God has placed on your heart – if you were in church last week, you may have written their name on a card and asked God to draw them to Himself.
- Someone that is part of our faith community at White River Christian Church.
- Someone that is not part of our faith community at White River Christian Church.

This challenge might feel overwhelming to some. But don't let those feelings of doubt or fear creep in. Remember being a blessing to others is an intentional action. To encourage all of you to go and be a blessing, consider this, the Lord knows right now the three people you are going to bless this week, and He has already prepared the time and place you will bless them. You only need to intentionally obey and commit to being a blesser. You ask, “How can you be so sure?” I'm so glad you asked! The book of Ephesians gives us this amazing insight into how God makes us blessers. “For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].” (Ephesians 2:4 AMP)

Did you catch that? In Christ, God made you new and in this work, He made you “ready to be used.” He made you ready to be a blessing. Then He looked out across all your days and prepared the paths you would take. Then He set good works, the blessing of others, in those paths. You simply need to step into the good works and be the blessing of others He has already made you to be. Don’t believe me? I will add to the speaker’s challenge. Put God to the test. Ask Him right now, “God, will you open doors this week for me to be a blessing?” Ask God for this, and watch what He does.

May our God of hope and peace and joy fill your hearts with the love of Christ Jesus to overflowing and may you all be a blessing, sharing the love of Christ, with everyone your life touches this week. Many blessings to you all!

- How does the love of God, in and through His Son Jesus, encourage your heart to be a blessing to others?
- How does knowing God has prepared you to be a blessing of others and He has already prepared the blessings in advance give you the courage to go and bless others in His name?

