

In nothing be anxious, but in everything,
by prayer and petition with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God.

And
the

PEACE OF GOD

which surpasses all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your thoughts in

Christ Jesus

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

FIRST CHRONICLES

January, 2023

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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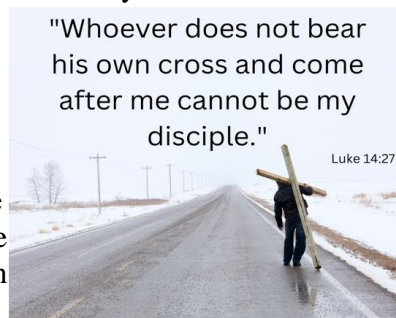
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“So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.” – Luke 14:33

When I joined the military, I knew that there were certain things that I had to give up. I could not eat everything I wanted to eat. I could not do everything I wanted to do. My schedule became the military’s schedule. I worked out when they told me to work out. I wore the uniform they told me to wear. I was clean shaven because that was a part of the Army regulations. I gave up a certain amount of freedom so that I could help defend other people’s freedoms. But the cost of joining the military doesn’t compare to the cost of discipleship.

Read the verse above again. Pardon my Minnesotan, but Uffda! That is a hard verse to read... much less live out! And it comes in a passage where Jesus is unapologetic about what it takes to be his disciple. Take a moment to read Luke 14:25-33. Don’t worry, I’ll wait... 😊 Did you notice that in verse 26, Jesus says that we have to hate our own family—even our own life—to be his disciple? I did. Jesus doesn’t ask for a half-hearted commitment to him. He doesn’t ask that we merely believe so that we can be saved. When Jesus calls us to follow him, he is calling us to be willing to forsake everything else for him.

And someday, it may come down to that. Persecution may break out in America and everything we own, all the relationships we have, even our very life(!) may be put on the line because of our faith in Christ. But paying this cost doesn’t happen only in the face of persecution. God could call us away from everything just as He did Abraham, to conflict with our nation’s leaders like He did with Moses, to put our very life on the line like He did David, to share a message that no one would listen to and would cause us to be ostracized like Jeremiah, or any other number of possibilities. Are we truly willing to pay the cost?



"Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:27

This is why, in that same passage, Jesus tells us to give careful consideration to counting the cost. He compares this consideration to a builder constructing a tower and a king going off to war. Neither of these activities will be engaged if the cost is too great. The cost of discipleship is great. Jesus says that it could cost us everything. And if we are not willing to renounce everything, then following Christ is not for us. I pray that all of us can decide to pay the cost. As Peter said in John 6:68, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

The cost may be great, but it is worth it. I can personally attest to this fact. God is good and He is faithful to those who have a relationship with Him. He will see us through every difficult season. So be encouraged to count the cost, and to count it all joy.

In Christ,
Jesse

OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS
Sunday, January 1 Henry & Joan Boneschans	Sunday, January 1 Donna DeBoer
Sunday, January 8 Doug & Donna DeBoer	Sunday, January 8 Katie DeBoer
Sunday, January 15 Greg & Sharon DeBoer	Sunday, January 15 Kody den Hoed
Sunday, January 22 Jim Douglass & Sharon Schneidermann	Sunday, January 22 Judy Eben
Sunday, January 29 Stan & Crystal deBoer Judy Eben	Sunday, January 29 Rachel Kramer



January	2	Kody denHoed Andrew Eben
	5	Jesse & Breanna Schrick Brevin Jasper
	7	Sharon Arends
	10	Amber Kooiker
	12	Clinton DeBoer
	14	George Winter
	15	Kenny Kanengieter Stephanie Wagenaar
	17	Stan deBoer
	18	Ernie & Ramona Villanueva Brenna Kramer (Daniel)
	20	Graham DeBoer
	22	Derek & Leah Winkowitsch Charlotte Jurrens
	23	Miriam Sternke
	24	Austin Eben Lucas Kooiker
	25	Jessica Christians Alan Wagenaar
	26	Mike & Barbie Hagan
	27	Jason Christians
	30	Jeff Arends Elijah Eklund

Thank You So Much

Thanks a lot for thinking of us and all our current patients who will appreciate the bags you brought. Your kindness is greatly appreciated!

- Sanford Worthington Infusion Center Nurses

Thank you to the church for the flowers you gave for Dean's funeral service. It's wonderful to have a church family at a time like this. Your prayers and kind words will always be remembered. Thank you, Pastor Jesse, for the funeral service. It was just what Dean wanted. Thank you to the kitchen helpers for a great job and everyone who took part in the service to make it special. Thank you.

-Donna Shelly & Family

We want to Thank You for your continued prayers and thoughts for our family. You have been a pillar of love and support for Dustin, Kayla and kids. This makes us so happy that they have an extended support system. We are very grateful for the monetary gift that was presented to us. God Bless!

-Norm and Diane Reck and Family

Thank you to everyone for your kindness shown to us during the passing of Raymond. From the kind words, hugs, cards, memorials, the ladies who served the meal, to Pastor Jesse and his message. All are appreciated!

-The Raymond Arends Family

Thank you for thinking of me on my birthday! Thank you for all the card and visits. It is very much appreciated. -Junior Stubbe

Thank You So Much

Thank you for the beautiful service and everyone involved that made the service come together. The flowers were lovely and we appreciate you for your thoughts and prayers. -Jim & Jeff Koth

On behalf of Family Crisis Centers, thank you for your kind support and generous donation of \$200 in support of victims of abuse and crime in our communities. Your support helps ensure the safety and wellness of our friends, family and neighbors who are hurting. -Family Crisis Center

We want to tell you - our Church family - just how much you have blessed us this past year and now again during this Christmas Season. Thank you for all you have done for us. God bless you and we wish you a very Happy New Year.
-Love, Lena and Marcee Ruddy



Rick and Debbie Bardin - Cameroon, Africa

Rick and Debbie returned to the Cameroon and have been very busy. During Thanksgiving they were involved with the 7-week Thanksgiving Offering and Dance time. It is interesting to hear what people do in other countries and we can be thankful for what we have. The Cameroon is still having conflicts and trouble and yet the people still share and enjoy their celebrations.

Rick and Debbie's grandson raised over \$200 selling lemonade and donated it to missions. With this money they were able to provide linoleum for three nursery school classrooms as well as soccer balls, hand balls and books. It is surprising how much can be done with small amounts.

Please continue Praying for the building projects and fundraising for the radiation therapy and oxygen plant. Continue praying for wisdom in how to help the many needy people.

Mission Board