

Church Lunch — January 21, 2024

Finance Report — Steve

2024 will be very challenging. The country is both secularized and polarized. The election cycle will raise the temp on this. The church in the west is even becoming more fractured.

If the Lord delays his return and grants us another year, how do we emerge from this more mature, more joyful, more missional, more obedient, more godly than we are at present?

Phil 4:8 — Place it prominently! Read it. Recite it to yourself and others. Practice it.

Ween yourself off of social media. How far off? Take that up with the Lord. But your social media time, browsing, and scrolling must be subject to the wise, life-giving instruction of scripture. Does Twitter, Tik Tok, Facebook, or Fortnite cause you to think about things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable? Are you filling your mind with things that are morally excellent and pure, things that are worthy of being praised? If not, there is no way you will move forward in godliness and usefulness.

Move forward in prayer. 31 Day Prayer Prompts!

Grow in grace and godliness. Remember what John Piper said a number of years ago: Facebook exists so that no one will ever be able to say to God I did not have time to pray. Starve the flesh; feed the spirit. Love the brothers, live quietly and mind your own business. (1 Thes 4:11)

Realize the battle for your mind and heart is going to intensify. Prepare for war. Put God's word front and center in your home and car and work place and books, and wherever else your eyes fall. Put the little scripture print next to your door so it will remind you to discipline your thoughts as you head out each day.

As a Church, 3 focal points for us individually and collectively:

- **Know nothing except Jesus Christ.** In the noise of distractions and a thousand conflicts, set your mind on things above. Seek to know and please and serve Christ. Write Colossians 3:1–3 on the back of that bookmark. Encourage others with Scripture as you chat.
- **Lay aside every weight and sin** — not just sins, but whatever does not help me run. We call this repentance.
- **Make disciples.** Pray regularly for opportunities to share the hope of salvation in Jesus Christ with others. Write at least one name on the back of your bookmark with whom you will share Christ. Plan time in your weekly schedule to meet with someone to read the Scripture and help them move one step closer to life in Christ.

Future Lunches: (Usually the 3rd Sunday)

Turn in questions in advance about something you are curious about. That will give us an opportunity to reply in a thoughtful manner.

SBC struggles will work themselves out one way or another over the next 6–7 months. We will discuss more in the days ahead. This will include mission giving and things that we didn't think we would need to think about 10 years ago.

Advances and adjustments we need to make as a church in 2024.

Plan and Apply!

You have:

- Isaiah 63-64 prayer model
- 31 Day Prayer Prompts
- 3 focal points on the bookmarks
- Prayer for someone with whom you will share the hope of Christ

Which one or two will you do Monday? Which will you add Tuesday?

Pray