

Bay City Wesleyan Church
December 10, 2017

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Sunday Morning 12-10-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"
When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/326235>

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[Image]

Sunday, December 24 at 10:45 AM - 11:59 AM

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FREE Tickets for Christmas by the Bay

Enjoy the sights, songs, and smells of Christmas. Hear the story like it's the very first time. Cookies, coffee, and hot cocoa to share afterwards. Bring your family to a Christmas Eve experience you'll all enjoy and have the rest of the day to celebrate together. Perhaps you'll start a new tradition. Get your FREE tickets now.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-by-the-bay-tickets-39735145891>

[Image]

Our advent sermon series

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"A Simple Christmas" is a 4-week series encouraging us to keep Christmas simple by focusing on God's peace, joy, love, and our response of faith in Jesus. The series concludes with the message at Christmas by the Bay.

Who do you know that needs simple faith in Jesus? Invite them. Better yet, bring them, so simple faith transforms their lives.

During this season of Advent and Christmas, we're asking, "How can we enjoy a simple Christmas? How can we experience simple love, simple joy, simple peace, and simple faith?"

You and I have been lied to and misled.

People have not changed...

Philippians 4:4-19 NIV

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to

be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/php.4.4-19.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

Joy-filled people are grateful people.

There's no need to compare ourselves with each other. We all need Jesus.

Joy-filled people are grateful people in whatever circumstances and in any situation.

FIRST STEPS TOWARD LIVING MORE GRATEFULLY:

Grateful people compare less.

Grateful people enjoy more.

Grateful people give more.

So, what about you?

If you were to measure your level of gratitude on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 is "I'm never grateful because I deserve better" and 10 is "I'm so grateful I exhale thanksgiving like the angels in heaven") where would you put yourself?

No matter where you placed yourself on the scale of 1 to 10, I have one more question. Please consider your answer prayerfully.

What one thing needs your attention, so you can live more gratefully?