



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020



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## Our Required Work

Suppose you gave me a gift. Let's say you presented me with a new tie. I take it out of the box and examine it. I say thank you and then reach for my wallet. "Now how much do I owe you?" I ask.

You think I am kidding. "It's a gift," you say. "You don't need to pay me."

"Oh, I understand," I respond, but then show I don't by asking, "Could I write you a check?"

You're stunned. "I don't want you to pay me. I want you to accept the gift."

"Oh, I see," I respond. "Perhaps I could do some work around your house in exchange for the tie?"

"You just don't get it, do you?" you state firmly. "I want to give this to you. It is a present. You can't buy a present."

"Oh, forgive me," I hasten. "Perhaps if I promised to purchase you a tie in return."

By this time you're insulted. In trying to buy your gift I have degraded your grace. I have robbed you of the joy of giving.

How often we rob God.

Have you ever considered what an insult it is to God when we try to pay him for his goodness? God loves a cheerful giver because he is a cheerful giver. If we, who are evil, enjoy giving gifts, how much more does he? If we, who are human, are offended when people want to turn our gift into a bribe, how much more is God?

Spend some moments slowly reading the response of Jesus to their question, "What are the things God wants us to do?" (John 6:28).

Jesus replied: "The work God wants you to do is this ..."

Can't you see the people lean closer, their minds racing? "What is the work he wants us to do? Pray more? Give more? Study? Travel? Memorize the Torah? What is the work he wants?" Sly is this scheme of Satan. Rather than lead us away from grace, he causes us to question grace or to earn it ... and in the end we never even know it.

What is it, then, that God wants us to do? What is the work he seeks? Just believe. Believe the One he sent. "The work God wants you to do is this: Believe the One he sent."

- Max Lucado

## God's Word.

God's word has shone from age to age.

It's wisdom never fails, it's promises unchanging stand, His will be obeyed.

This word of God instructs the mind, it feeds the heart and soul;

it teaches, trains, rebukes and guides, It makes the Christian whole.

It points to Christ on every page if we desire to see,

To him it leads that we might live, Salvation full and free!

Rekindle in your church O God, A passion for your word,

That all who seek to know your truth May from its pages learn.

So set our hearts to seek you Lord,

Your spirit we implore to teach us truth and change our lives

That we might love you more.



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## St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November

11:30 am | Rakaia Friendship Gathering

Fellowship, Summer Meal, Euchre or a Movie. Bring and Buy Stall and raffle.

Audrey welcomes donations for the Christmas raffle,

books available on Tuesday for folk to help with the selling.

December Gathering Tuesday 8 December a Christmas meal at Salmon Tales.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | with Miranda A time for friendship, fun, and support.

Welcome to all pre-school children.

1:00 pm | Steady As You Go |

Balance, strengthening and gentle exercises for senior folk's health and well-being.

Rev John Titlow's bible readings for this Sunday at St Andrew's are from

Joshua 24: 1 -3, 14 - 25.. Joshua Speaks to the people at Shechem.

Matthew 25: 1 - 13. The Parable of the ten Girls.

**PLAINS SPEAKING** deadline for contributions 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Email Elsa Hydes at [esurya@hotmail.com](mailto:esurya@hotmail.com)

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November Sunday Services			
8 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Arii
15 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Arii
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Neville Burns

### *A Prayer to Encourage*

Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth!

Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honour you.

With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God.

I will give glory to your name forever, for your love for me is very great.

You have rescued me from the depths of death. Amen

Psalm 86: 11-13