

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, August 2, 2009

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you.

⁸ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds,
and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8.

What a marvelous promises this is – a promise we should never take for granted, but instead should make use of every day. When we pray, God hears us! And if He hears us, we know that we have that which we ask in His Name! (1 John 5:15)

And yet how easy it is for us to miss the point of such a promise and begin to think of God as a big vending machine. ***Do you know what I mean?*** You're out shopping at Wal-mart one day and you get hungry. You find one of those big, glass-fronted machines with all the buttons. So you walk up, stick a dollar in the slot, and make your selection. Out pops a bag of Cheetos or a cookie, or whatever you like! It doesn't matter what you pick. It's up to you! You can take what you want. The machine certainly doesn't care. Maybe you're a bit overweight like me. You really don't need that snicker two-pack. But it doesn't matter! You paid the money. You get what you choose. That's how it works!

Unfortunately, a lot of people think God works on the same principle. As long as you bring the right money – in this case, *faith* – you get to choose the blessing. Do you want a new job? No problem. More money? Sure. Maybe a bigger house, or a newer car. So ask for it. It doesn't really matter what you choose, because it's all up to you! As long as you've got the coin, God's gotta give whatever you ask.

So what happens when God doesn't behave like a vending machine? That's what we'll be looking at this morning. Pray for understanding as we open God's Word together.

Pastor Scott