

November 13, 2015

Dear friends in Christ,

So do you have the lottery fever? It seems like you can't turn on the TV, or open a newspaper, without being told about the billion dollar jackpot waiting to be won. And hearing people talking about how they would spend it if they won.

On the other hand, there is a good deal of evidence that people who have won huge jackpots enjoy the winnings, but sooner than you would expect, end up with little left, and some even bankrupt.

Maybe what makes the lottery so exciting is that sense of immediate wealth. Suddenly a person goes from working the day job to negotiating with a financial consultant and attorney how to keep and spend the jackpot. It is so foreign to everyday life!

And the Christian life is not about sudden payoffs, or jackpots. It is about living life to its fullest, and growing in grace, or as the Bishop likes to put it, "mercy and delight". In one of his letters, Paul tells his readers that they are still being fed as infants with milk because they aren't ready for real food. In God's mercy and delight for us, we take a path that is characterized by slowly building upon experiences and reflection.

Another way to look at it is this: God doesn't suddenly show up in our lives and shower us with love. Instead, our lives are forever linked with God's love, and our life is a journey of discovering that love and claiming it for ourselves.

I am not telling you whether to buy a ticket this week or not. Rather, we need to remember that life is to be lived day to day, in the grace and love of God. Happily, we don't have to wait to see if we are winners or losers - not when we are already children in God's family!

Fr David