

Children's sermon: November 1, 2009

"Gumballs and life"

Ever heard of the book ---- "The Twits"????

Here is a quote from this British children's book:

If a person has ugly thoughts ...

it begins to show on the face. And when that person has ugly thoughts every day, every week, every year ---- the face gets uglier and uglier until it gets so ugly you can hardly bear to look at it. A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth ... but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.

Do you know what a "twit" looks like??? it's a little car ---- a CAR OF GOODNESS.

Anyway ... back to "twits" later. I'd like you to meet Fred. This is what Fred looks like when he is positive and has a good attitude. For example ... he walks by this gumball machine. It's empty. But he says to himself:
"Hey --- what a cool gumball machine ... I'm gonna fill it with love!!"

But the next day ... he walks by the same machine ... and says:

"What a stupid machine ... there is nothing in it!!"

When you look at life this way ... well, you start looking different yourself.

Here is the negative Fred ----- now he is a wrinkled SAD SACK!!

Fred doesn't like looking like a "sad sack" ... but such is life, when you complain and only see gumball machines as empty.

My friends ... let's take another look at this gumball machine. I'm shaking it ... YES, THERE IS SOMETHING INSIDE. Let's look.

It's small.

OK ----- I'll pull the switch ... let's see if anything comes out.

Here it is: IT'S A TWIT!!

A little car of goodness.

Hey, Fred ... come over here. We have something for you.

A twit.

Touch it ... feel it ... DRIVE IT!!

PRESTO!@!! Fred isn't a "sad sack" anymore.

He smiles ... his color is back ... his life is no longer empty ... it's FULL.

In God's world ... "being beautiful" is about what you are like on the inside.

It's looking at the world ... with a positive attitude.

It's looking at gumball machines ... and filling them with love.

You can go back to your seats now ... and for you: YOUR VERY OWN GUMBALL MACHINE.