

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 850 MINTER AVE., SHAFTER, CA 93263

WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning

8:30 Bible Classes

Galatians 5:1ff

Classes in English & Spanish



9:00 Prayer Worship

Please give us your requests

9:30 Worship Service

Worship in English & Spanish

Elders

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Borjas Gonzales | 599-9311 |
| Eddie Fisher | 342-8337 |
| Garry Nelson | 331-3858 |
| Mike Westbrook | 910-2197 |
| Ron Nunlist | 746-6531 |

Deacon

Minister

Jim Young 527-7026

jimyoung2work@aol.com

Church Office 746-2205

Office Hours:

Monday ~ Tuesday ~ Wednesday
8 am to 1 pm

Thursday
11 am to 4:30 pm

Friday Out of the Office

Bulletin

Jan Nelson 332-6146

grammyjan51@yahoo.com

[Sandy Westbrook 910-8143](tel:910-8143)

mikewestbrook@att.net

Don't forget to check out our
website

**No te olvides de visitar nuestro
sitio web**

www.shafterchurchofchrist.com

Bible on your phone

MySpectrumWiFif8-2G

MySpectrumWiFif8-5G

password: purplelemon096

ATTENTION

*Teach us to number our days
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

Psalm 90:12

Ever since God issued the Ten Commandments, we've understood there's something special about that number. It serves as the foundation for our numerical system. Ten is the sum of the first four numbers (1+2+3+4) and the first two-digit number. It brings us full circle. We view ten as complete and perfect, which is why we often say, "On a scale from one to ten . . ."

Ten years make a decade. And since we only have about seven of those, we should pay attention. Verse 10 of Psalm 90 says that our current earthly lives are zipping by. Our years are "soon cut off, and we fly away." But God is our "dwelling place in all generations," from "everlasting to everlasting" (verses 1-2).

Starting the year without Christ is like jumping into a dark, unknown patch of the future. But *with* our Lord, it's like taking a step with the One who holds the future.

Lord, remind us to turn our attention to the importance of each day, each year, and each decade. Help us to make our lives count for Christ.

(Taken from Walking with God Devotional by David Jeremiah)



Reminder...The sign-up list for the building cleaning for January is on the back left table. Please sign up.

January 6 - Elders Meeting at 8:00 a.m.

January 8 - Men's Bible Study time changed to 7:30 a.m. in church kitchen

**January 8 - Thursday night dinners resume
Adrianne and Barbara**

February 3 - Elders Meeting at 8:00 a.m.

February 5 - Thursday night dinner

February 7 - Prayer Breakfast

Men's at 8:00 in the kitchen

Ladies at 9:30 at Jan's

PASTOR'S CORNER - What Lesson is God Trying to Teach Me?

Sufferers often ask this question. It is true that God graciously uses trials to produce sweet fruit in our lives yet, there is a danger in reducing suffering to “**a lesson to learn**”. Here are five potential problems with this:

1. It's not biblical in every instance: Consider the lives of Job and our Lord. The opening chapter of Job says he was “blameless and upright” (1:1), and God allowed suffering (in part) to prove his genuineness (1:8–12).

Jesus experienced the greatest suffering in human history. His story/purpose was to bring sinners to God ([1 Pet. 3:18](#)). In God's kindness, both Job and Jesus learned through their suffering ([Job 42:1-6](#); [Heb. 5:8](#)), but in neither case does the Bible *reduce* their purpose of suffering to a lesson for the sufferer.

2. It can unjustly condemn sufferers: As with Job not all suffering is because of sin. The Bible teaches that all suffering is a result of sin ([Rom. 5:12](#)) but all suffering is not a consequence of personal sin ([John 9:2–3](#)). To blame someone's suffering on his sin is often presumptuous, usually unhelpful, and almost always simplistic. Let's be careful not to fall into the trap of Job's friends.

3. It teeters on the prosperity gospel: It is wonderful if we are able to find some biblical lesson because of our difficulties. But this is never promised in Scripture. Trained by this subtle prosperity gospel, we can begin putting our hope in learning our lesson rather than looking to Jesus. We throw ourselves onto our own behavior to heal us rather than throwing ourselves onto the grace of God. The lesson rather than the Lord becomes our Savior.

4. It undermines our humanity: In this life we won't understand fully why God allows hardships. When suffering it isn't our job to figure it all out. When we are walking alongside someone who is suffering, our job isn't to help her figure it out. Our job is to present her, encourage her, and remind her of God's presence and promises.

5. It can misrepresent God: God isn't playing games with you, seeing if you can crack the code to unlock His hidden lesson. He's not holding His presence and goodness hostage until you learn your lesson. All you have to do, actually, is collapse in order to get into the heart of Christ. Our Savior is one who can/does sympathize with us ([Heb 5:14](#)) and understands us. Let us rejoice if we do find lessons through hardships but also remembering that God's purposes in our suffering are far greater than a lesson—and that one day Christ will return to save us, heal us, and unburden our suffering fully and forever.

NEW THIS WEEK

Lord, give me concern and compassion for the lost that I meet today. Open doors so I might share YOUR message!

New Prayer Requests this week:

Debra's brother-in-law, **Roy**, had exploratory surgery and a mass was removed, but no further problems are expected. Praises!!!

LaDona fell last week after church and fractured her hip. She had surgery and is now at Brookdale if you would like to visit her or send cards. The address is:

Brookdale Senior Living
350 Calloway Drive
Room 118, Bed B
Bakersfield, CA 93312

Tate, Nina's grandson, was scheduled for surgery in San Bernardino on Wednesday

Anne, Nina's daughter, is scheduled for a lung biopsy on January 13 at UCLA outpatient

Jim went to urgent care last Sunday for a sinus infection and is on medication

Debra's throat procedure last Monday went well

Mary C. was not feeling well last Sunday

Syble is scheduled for back surgery on January 14

Continued Prayer:

Kimara, friend of Chris & Natalie, for strength and comfort after the passing of Bob

Numerous **members of Sally's family** have health problems: Father recovering from work accident; cousin Kelly recovering from surgery; Rueben, brother, knee injury.

Tank continues to struggle with various health issues

Hannah, Trina's daughter, continue to pray for her

Mike G., Borjas' friend, has prostate cancer and having radiation treatment

Anthony, Borjas' grandson needs strength to help him with his co-workers

Buddy continued healing of his shoulder

Mark Keeley recovering from knee replacement

Robert is struggling with some digestive problems

John Maltby, prostate cancer

Vivian dealing with blood pressure problems

Jan, nerve pain in her leg



***Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility
count others more significant than yourselves.
Philippians 2:3 (ESV)***

On a recent Friday afternoon, I was looking forward to going home and relaxing after a long week.

While packing up to go home, I received a message from my friend and colleague Chrissa. "One of my military spouses from Fort Polk who just relocated there is having a very hard time," she said. It was Friday, so I knew she was off work, much like I was about to be.

In that moment, I had to make a decision – stay and figure it out (and sacrifice the start of my own weekend) or tell Chrissa I was on my way out of the office and would help on Monday.

Minutes later, I found myself on the phone, gathering information and resources to pass along to this military spouse who was struggling. As I glanced at the clock, I reminded myself that the privilege of serving military members is not bound by a schedule. Ultimately, the help that was needed didn't take much of my time. It was a small gesture.

I think of Chrissa's message every now and then, because it reminds me that the care and concern we bless others with have nominal cost but priceless meaning. One of the great blessings of living and working in a military community is to witness how intently care is shown to one another in both big and small ways.

On that particular Friday afternoon, Chrissa's outreach was God's message to me that we should all strive to serve with an open, generous heart and be willing to help others with extra effort.

*Father, may my actions glorify You in the care, love, and
understanding I show those around me in all ways. Amen.
~ Jolynda Strandberg*

(Taken from Walking in Grace Devotional)

***Follow the steps of the good,
and stay on the paths of the righteous.
Proverbs 2:20 NLT***

God, I want to follow in the steps of the good.

Help me to stay on a path that honors you.

As I keep my eyes on you, you will make sure
my steps are steady. Your ways are good,
and your plans for me are better than my own.

(Taken from Prayers and Promises for Women)



*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and
patience. ~ Colossians 3:12 ESV*