



24, 2023

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

dates to Remember

Bulletin information needs to be given to Jan or Sandy by Monday as the Newsletter will go out on Thursday or Friday.

Thursday Meals: Sept 28 Ann & Jan

See Debra and Vivian with questions on Thursday Scheduling

Sept. 29 - Area wide monthly singing at West Visalia CofC 7:00p.m. 4525 W. Caldwell Ave. Desserts following singing.

Elders will meet on Tuesday, October 3rd at 8:00 a.m. If you have questions or comments please put in the box or see one of the Elders.

October 7 – Men's Breakfast in the kitchen at 8:00 a.m.

Ladies Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. at April's home

October 13 – MOVIE NIGHT 6:00 p.m. Bring your own beverage.

November 5 - Quarterly luncheon; more info to be announced

Jim and Debra will be on vacation from October 23 – 29.



Several of our ladies carpooled yesterday to the Ladies Day in Visalia. Thank you to those of you who volunteered to drive.

A big thank you, also, to LeRoy and James for enclosing the back storage area for us.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.
- Romans 12:9

Good can be so boring, God. And God, evil hides so easily in the thrill of the moment and in the pause that seems to refresh. Help me look deep into myself that I might find the strength to hold on for the long race, the long haul that is demanded of the faithful life, which ends with the phrase: "Well done good and faithful servant." God, I need help discovering the joy of discipline that will strengthen me to hold fast to what is good and to always shun evil.

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM

read Exodus 13-16

Children's Class: Debra

Mark & Leann

PRAYER & SOCIAL TIME 9:00 AM

WORSHIP TIME

9:30 AM

Elders

Eddie Fisher	342-8337
Garry Nelson	331-3858
Mike Westbrook	910-2197

Deacons

Mark Keeley	333-3677
Ron Nunlist	746-6531

Minister

Jim Young	527-7026
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Jimyoung2work@aol.com

Church Office 746-2205

Office Hours: Monday Tuesday
Wednesday 8 am to 1 pm Thursday 11
am to 4:30 pm

Bulletin

Jan Nelson 332-6146

grammyjan51@yahoo.com

Sandy Westbrook 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



Pastor's Corner of Light: Faith is More Than Belief

Last week I opened my Corner with the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers (**Luke 17:11-19**). In that event Jesus clearly showed His love and compassion even for the social rejects of that time/place. If you also remember, Jesus healed the Canaanite (Gentile) woman's daughter (**Matt 15:22**) and the Centurion's daughter (probably Gentile) (**Matt 5:5ff**). Jesus is very sincere when He commands us to love one another which includes the broken and poor (spiritual & financial) and even our enemies.

Of course, the first step in being able to live this kind of life will have to start with our loving the Lord our God, with all of our heart, all of our soul, and all of our mind (**Matt 22:37**) From that love should spring a well of gratitude and thanks. Christ was actually surprised that only ONE leper came back to Him to offer his thanks.

How are we doing with our expressed appreciation for the blessings in our life?

1 Thess 5:18; Eph 5:20; Phil 4:6 all share the sentiment that we are to *continually* be giving praise and thanks. **Heb 13:15** "Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, a fruit of lips that give thanks to His Name." And is it any surprise, the next verse after commanding us to praise and give thanks says "And do not neglect doing good and sharing -- for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Faith and love influence how we live our lives. Love and gratitude impact our attitude. The lepers were told to go present themselves to the priest. Why were they told that? They had not been cured at that moment of time - yet they still *turned and walked forward*. Faith and hope must have guided them to do as Jesus said. And the result of their faith was healing.

We are told to love God with our hearts, souls and minds. If these aspects of our lives can be focused and given to God then they can also be affected by God. Has your heart been filled with the Spirit and filled with love, compassion and with forgiveness for others. Has your soul been blessed with a cleansing and filled with God's love? Has your mind been given over to devotion, study and a commitment to live for God? I pray that your life reflects appreciation and wonder at the way God's love works in your life.

May **2 Tim 1:7** fill your life: "for God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."

CLEANING

1. Clean auditorium and disinfect chairs / door handles
2. Clean the 2 outside restrooms and North entry doorway
3. Clean foyer floor, dust, glass doors / windows / Nursery restroom



Ask Vivian or April where the vacuums are and cleaning supplies. If supplies are needed let Mike know as he has key for toilet paper and paper towels.

We really would appreciate that you and your family would pick 1 of the 3 chores that need to be done. The Sign-up Sheets are on the table in the back on the left side. Please! If you would stop and put your name down today, so we could have September filled and everyone can schedule their time ahead for the month.

Somehow, some way, your little kingdom will look very attractive to you today, but it is the very kingdom from which grace works unrelentingly to rescue you.

The Bible really is a story of kingdoms in conflict, and that battle rages on the field of your heart. It rages for control of your soul. The two kingdoms in conflict cannot live in peace with one another. There will never be a truce. There is no safe demilitarized zone where you can live. Each kingdom demands your loyalty and your worship. Each kingdom promises you life. One kingdom leads you to the King of kings and the other sets you up as king. The big kingdom works to dethrone you and decimate your little kingdom of one, while the little kingdom seduces you with promises it cannot deliver. The big kingdom of glory and grace is gorgeous from every perspective, but it doesn't always look that way to you. The little kingdom is deceptive and dark, but at points it appears to you as beautiful and life giving. You either pray that God's kingdom will come and that his will be done or you work to make sure that your will and your way win the day.

So it makes sense that Jesus came to earth as a King to establish his kingdom. Like a hero Monarch, he died so his kingdom would last eternally. But he did not come as an earthly king to set up a physical, political kingdom.. He came to set up a much better, much greater, much more expansive kingdom than one that locates itself in a certain place and time. He came to dethrone all other rule and set up his grace-infused, life-giving reign in your heart. He came to free you and me from our bondage to our own self-serving kingdom purposes. He came to help us understand that his grace is not given to make our little kingdom purposes work but to invite us to a much, much better kingdom.

So tell yourself again today that there is a King but he is not you. Tell yourself that there is a kingdom that will protect and satisfy your heart but it is not yours. As Jesus said, there is a kingdom that you should seek, but you will never, ever be its monarch. Quite apart from anything you could have done, achieved, earned, or deserved, you have been given a kingdom. The price of that gift was the suffering and death of the King. But he conquered death so that by grace he could establish his rule in your heart. Right now he reigns on your behalf (see 1 Corinthians 15), and he will continue to do so until the last enemy of your soul and of his kingdom has been defeated. Then he will invite you into the final kingdom, where peace and righteousness will reign forever and ever. This is the story of your faith. The story of this Savior King is now your biography. Why would you ever want to go back to the delusional hopes of your kingdom of one?

***For further study and encouragement: Exodus 32
Taken from New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp***

Prayer REQUESTS

If you need prayer, please let our Elders know, or put a note in the box in back of the building or you can call Vivian Fisher (889-4075) to start the prayer chain.

*TRAVELING

Hoopers are in Scotland and Ireland; will be returning this week

Syble made it home from Washington and will be driving out to California with Charla in October to visit

*PRAISE

Hannah and Ibra will be moving into their new home Sept. 30th

Mikey and Kirin's home closed escrow and they have moved in

*NEW

Lord, give me the same concern and compassion for the lost that you have. Open doors that I might share your message of love and salvation.

For those that have upcoming tests this week or test results

***Robert** had a follow-up appointment with his doctor this past week due to hi continued pain

***Nina's nephew** has a tumor on his kidney

***Continued prayers for James' aunts: Pat** with broken ankle and **Laurie** with family issues

***Smart Family**, Christina, her younger sister, and her daughter are all fighting different types of cancer; prayer for healing and for successful treatment for each of them

Dee, Earl's daughter-in-law, recovering from surgery for breast cancer

Janese, dealing with some family issues

Tom Vontz recovering from surgery for colon cancer

Nina's grandson is having health and family issues

LaDona as she recuperates from her fall; having back pain

Gary, Buggy's husband, will have prostate surgery

Earl, Debra, Sharon and Buggy's brother, has a rare type of leukemia

Mindy, Ron's granddaughter who is away at college, had her car stolen and is trying to find a car

Ibra, Trina's son-in-law, is suffering with arthritis

Buggy is struggling with her diabetes

Carlos Jerez' daughter who is 22 yrs. old has been diagnosed with a rare cancer

Hector, Mike's friend in Buttonwillow home after his valve replacement; may his healing be quick

Billy, Debra's son unspoken prayer

Earl has a friend that is having some serious health problems

James C. continues to have tests run and not back to feeling his normal self

Shawn Tiger, Sharon's friend, in the hospital with kidney problems due to his diabetes

Tate, Nina's grandson, having health and family issues

Unspoken Prayers . . . we know their names, and, above all, God knows them...

Wayne Johnson , pancreatic cancer

Mike Hughes, Sharon's friend, his cancer has returned

Barbara continues to be struggling with her back pain

Mary N. and Mary C. having struggles with their health

Sandy continuing with physical therapy and the gland infections is improving