



October 6, 2024

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



BIBLE CLASS

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

John 8:31 ff

Youth Class: Eddie Fisher

Children’s Class: Debra Young

PRAYER TIME

9:15 AM – 9:30 AM

WORSHIP TIME

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Elders

Eddie Fisher 342-8337

Garry Nelson 331-3858

Mike Westbrook 910-2197

Deacon

Ron Nunlist 746-6531

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

MySpectrumWiFi8-2G

MySpectrumWiFi8-5G

password: purplelemon096

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

Thursday Meals PLEASE talk with Debra. She is looking for people for October. If you will help out with a dessert or cookies let LaDona know.

October 10 – Thursday night meal Cook: Barbara Pflugh

October 17 – Thursday night meal Cooks: Sharon and Buggie

October 24 – Thursday night meal Cook:

October 31st NO DINNER SERVED as it is Halloween

November 2 – Prayer Breakfasts

November 5 – Elders Meeting4

December 29 – Song and Supper at 6:00

THERE WILL BE NO MOVIE NIGHTS UNTIL JANUARY

**WE’LL UNDERSTAND IT
BETTER BY AND BY**

Things happen in life that do not make sense to our human, finite minds. Children get sick, war breaks out, and some people seem to struggle every day of their existence. We don’t understand, and our flesh cries out, “Why, Lord?” When asked about all the affliction he had seen, a missionary once said that our question in heaven will not be, “Why all the suffering?” It will instead be, “What suffering?” Because, as Paul said, all of our trials and tribulations will pale in comparison to the glory we will experience (2Corinthians 4:17).

There were plenty of things about Charles Albert Tindley’s life that surely didn’t make sense to him. His father was a slave. His mother was a free woman who died while he was still very young. Tindley was taken in by an aunt to retain his freedom, but she often hired him out so that he could earn his keep. He taught himself to read and as an adult put himself through school using correspondence courses. Yet for all he had been through, Tindley seemed to have a deep understanding of the purpose of affliction.

His hymn reminds us that our testimonies in heaven will not be about our struggles and suffering. We will tell the stories of how, in Christ, we have overcome. Our stories in heaven will be all about giving God the glory. And we will understand it better by and by.

*Lord, I cannot wait to hear all of the saints
tell their stories around the throne.*

(Taken from 100 Favorite Hymns)



We will be making a \$500 contribution to the Church of Christ Disaster Relief Fund to help with those affected by the recent hurricane. Please remember to keep those families in prayer; many lost everything and many lost their lives.

Pastor's Corner of Light: God Saves In spite of Ourselves. Gideon – Judges 6 & 7

Gideon's story presents an interesting scenario: — a difficult ministry for a flawed minister. Gideon's narrative is familiar, but within it lie two often overlooked lessons: despite Gideon's flaws – God's **words and works** brings salvation. It is God who gives the increase (**1 Cor 3:6,7**).

The story starts with Israel following their normal pattern of straying away from the Lord and "doing evil". Israel cries out to God for salvation after He has sent the Midian's against them and in response, God sends not a savior but a sermon. A prophet visits Israel to deliver God's words (v. 8). While God's word is sent to the people at large, it's also sent to Gideon personally. In verse 14, God gives Gideon clear instructions and a promise: "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; have I not sent you?"

Gideon acknowledges God's words/instructions yet reacts with doubt. How flawed Gideon is. Twice he hears God's words, and yet even as they ring in his ears, he doubts them. He wavers from what he knows. And this isn't a single moment of weakness—Gideon asks for an initial sign in verse 17 and then, in verses 37 and 39, two further signs with the fleece. He doubts God's word.

We know this aching doubt all too well. God's word, after all, is clear. We can read and understand it. Yet we doubt. We wonder if it means what it says. We pause and question – can I actually do or say or trust that God will get me through this? **Rom 8:28 & Jer 29:11** seems to be meant for someone else. We fail to trust that God loves and cares for ALL His children – from their birth till their resurrection. If our lives are going to be marked by faithfulness, we must remember God's words — **and trust them.**

Remembering and believing God's word is important because they not only instruct us, but they also show God's works. Gideon experienced several significant works of God. He met the angel of the Lord, witnessed fire springing up from the rock, and in an action dripping with grace, Gideon had his request regarding the fleece answered twice. All this Gideon saw – and more. He sees 135,00 Midianites defeated by only 300 Israelites – with no weapons. Salvation belongs to the Lord, and He delivers it. Time and again Scripture shows us this. **John 20:30,31; Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10:11; 2 Tim 3:16** all record how our Bible has been written so that we can know with certainty that it is God that saves, not our wisdom, hard work or contacts – unless it is our contact with God Himself who we are relying on. This relationship with Him is what will bring the fruit of a quiet faithfulness that equips us to finish the race.



Love means to love that which is unlovable, or it is no virtue at all; forgiving means to pardon that which is unpardonable, or it is no virtue at all - and to hope means hoping when things are hopeless, or it is no virtue at all.
~ G. K. Chesterton

RECOGNIZING OUR INESTIMABLE WORTH

Judge not, that you be not judged. ~ Matthew 7:1

One of the most debilitating spirit-breakers I know is the tendency to judge the worth of others as well as ourselves on the basis of performance. With this mind-set we assume that if what is done is good, so is the person. If what is done is not good, neither is the person.

It is a common error to assume we are worthy persons only as long as we perform well. With that mind-set, we believe that what we do is more valuable than who we are.

Jesus says in John 13:34 that we are to love one another, even as he loved us. Just as Jesus first considered the worth of the person, so must we. Though someone's performance may displease us, our role is not to judge, alienate, or condemn. The cleansing of sin and the modification of behavior are God's job. The recognition of the inestimable worth of each of God's children is ours.

There is a vast difference between acceptance and approval. We are not mandated to approve of wrong behavior but to accept others as worthy of God's love and provision. Acceptance and support can help wounded spirits heal.

The greatest example of seeing the worth of the person apart from performance was set by Jesus. He consistently cut through the externals of performance to the interior of the heart, and each time he affirmed the worth of that individual by the way he treated him or her. ~

Marilyn Meberg

(Taken from *Daily Gifts of Grace*)



Begin Your Day with God

He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to hear as the learned. The Lord God as opened my ear.

~ Isaiah 50:4-5 NKJV

Want to worry less and enjoy life more? If so here's a simple prescription that's tested and true: spend time with God every morning.

Each new day is a gift from God, and if we are wise, we spend a few quiet moments each morning thanking the Giver. When we begin each day with heads bowed and hearts lifted, we remind ourselves of God's love, His protection, and His commandments. And we can align our priorities for the coming day with the teachings and commandments that God has given us through His holy Word.

Are you seeking to change some aspect of your life? If so, ask for God's help and ask for it many times each day, starting with your morning devotional.

Begin each day with God. It will change your priorities. ~ Elizabeth George

Dear Lord, every day of my life is a journey with You. I will take time today to think, to pray, and to study Your word. Guide my steps, Father, and keep me mindful that today offers yet another opportunity to celebrate Your blessings, Your love, and Your Son. ~Amen

PRAYER REQUESTS

TOGETHER WE WILL PRAY

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

PRAISE

For the safe travel for **Buddy and Darlene**

For **Adrienne's** doctors diagnosing her quickly and providing treatment

For **Eddie's** recovery after a mild heart-attack and a stent placed in his heart.

For **Nina's** safe travel to Indiana

For **Ron's** biopsy results showing no cancer

For the resolution of **David's** situation

For Jan's cousin, **Carol's**, successful heart surgery at Stanford

For our Song and Supper last Sunday night

TRAVELING

Garry and Jan left Friday for a river cruise; will be back October 20; pray for safe travel

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.

***Pray for our continued growth and fellowship as God's family.**

***Pray for the families affected by the hurricane with both material loss and loss of family members**

***Adrienne**, for continued healing

***Natalie**, ongoing pain in her right wrist

***Eddie**, for continued healing

***Westley** as he awaits court's decision

***Robert** had sinus surgery; doing okay from that but having some other health issues

***Buddy** prayer for continued remission.

***Bonnie**, Jan's cousin in Maryland, is now on hospice

***Trina** had a root canal this week; hopefully will relieve her tooth pain

***Darlene**, a friend of Buggie, had cancer surgery this last week

Cheryl and Jim White

Herlinder, Connie's friend, is suffering with liver cancer.

Gerald as he continues dealing with his health problems.

Rose for continued healing of her wrist.

Election time and lots going on. Just remember we have our freedom to make the choice we pray will be the best choice for our country. Spend a lot of time praying for it to be a more kind time that the candidates choose their words wisely and the parties wake up and be an example in how it's done. Also, pray that the media would not concentrate on this battle of words so much.

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

Please remember to email or text **Sandy** the next couple of weeks with any updates or changes for current and long term prayer list. We know that our prayer warriors pray for specific concerns for each person.