



Dec. 10, 2023

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

BIBLE CLASS

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Joshua 7,8

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

Deacons

Mark Keeley 333-3677
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
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



Be sure and stay after church this morning. We will be having a farewell luncheon for Mark and Leanne Keeley as they head back to Texas to move into their new home. They both will be very missed.

Also, Dayanara will be leaving on Tuesday for Michigan to see her son and possibly make that her new home. We were all so happy to witness Dayana's baptism last week and we wish her safe travels and hope she knows she will always be welcome to return to us if Michigan doesn't work out for any reason.

Dates to Remember

Jan. 2 - Elders meet at Church Kitchen at 8:00 a.m. If you have questions or comments, please put in the box or see one of the Elders.

Jan. 4 - 5:30 Thursday night dinner resumes; Cooks: Ann and Jan

Jan. 6 - Women's Prayer Brunch ~ at 9:30 a.m location TBA

Men's Prayer Breakfast - 8:00 a.m. in the church kitchen

Jan. 12 - MOVIE NIGHT 6:00



There are sign-up sheets on the round table in back for December if you would put your name down to help with cleaning assignments of the building.

They are broken up into 3 groups so should make it a little easier to pick a group you feel you can do to help with. And we really need the help!

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 it if you or your family would pick 1 of the 3 chores that need to be done. THANK YOU!

Pastor's Corner of Light: Help for Suffering by Seeing the Sovereignty of God

Isaiah 53 shows us God's sovereignty working in this world. It offers us the chance to see and consider God's will working in this world. This can then offer us some insight into finding peace and acceptance in the pain we are going through because often the reason behind such situations seems to have no rhythm or reason behind it. This is how many feel when tragedy strikes. But look at verse 5. Here's the purpose behind Christ's suffering — "But he was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; His chastisement brought us peace, by His wounds we are healed."

What we see here is that there was a great design and a great purpose behind His great suffering. His death brought us life; His wounds brought us healing. But the question remains about how this helps me through my sufferings today? Christ's suffering is the lens which we look through at **our sufferings**. If His suffering had a purpose behind it, then with faith and trust, we should accept that our sufferings also have a reason for it, and one day we will see it.

When we are confronted with suffering, we tend to ask the wrong question. The wrong question is this: "How could God bring any good out of this?" The truth is that we don't know, we don't need to know; all we need to know is that He knows. Just because it seems pointless to me doesn't mean that it's pointless to God. After all, remember the Bible calls God "The Potter." What does a potter do? He takes a messy, lump of clay, and turns it into a masterpiece. We can have peace in our heart knowing that He knows. And just in case there is someone who refuses to see the sovereign plan of God in the midst of suffering - we read in verse 10, "it was the will of the Lord to crush Him. He has put Him to grief." There it is for all to see: the sovereignty of God. The second portions of verses 10 & 11 end the suffering with victory and joy! The end of 10: "He shall see His offspring" (that's us, the church); "He shall prolong His days" (that's His resurrection). Now watch this: "The will of the Lord shall prosper in His hand." That's victory! Verse 11: "Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied."

Remember when Jesus was speaking to His apostles regarding the sorrow and suffering of His death (John 16:16ff) and He compared it to a woman giving birth. What was His point? That her sorrow and pain actually turns into victory and joy. Likewise, their suffering/sadness will ultimately will turn to rejoicing. Be assured that one day **YOU** will see that every form of suffering has been worth it. That none of it was pointless. Like a movie or book, **you know in the end**. The author of life is going to bring it all together to bring us joy & blessings! This will be true *if the author of our life is Christ Jesus*.



***Every day you need it. You simply can't live without it.
What is it? The heart-convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit.***

I love the hymn, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing." I especially appreciate the honest admission and plea of the third verse.

O to grace, how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.

Here is an honest, excuse-free expression of the spiritual struggle we experience between the grace of conversion and the grace of eternity. It is what we all deal with every day. It's what causes us to lose our way. It's what leads us to live in a way that is contradictory to what we profess to believe. It's what makes us susceptible to temptation. We are all still in possession of wandering hearts. We would like to think that our hearts are perfectly faithful and true, but they are not. We would like to think that our moral commitments are unshakable. We would like to think that what God says is wrong would not be attractive to us. We would like to think that we always think God's thoughts after him and that our desires are always in the right place. We would like to think all of these things. But the problem is that we still have fickle hearts.

You see, our biggest problem is not that we live with flawed people who bring trouble our way. Our great difficulty is not that we live in a fallen world where temptation tends to greet us around every corner. The big issue for us is not that we live in a world that isn't operating the way God intended, as a result of which we face difficulty, disease, suffering, loss, and grief. No, our big difficulty is that sin still resides in our hearts. It still distorts our thoughts and redirects our desires. The less-than-perfect people, the temptations around us, and the broken world in which we live are problems for us because we have this problem in our hearts. It is humbling, but it is important to remember that it is only ever the sin inside us that hooks us to the sin outside of us. So what we need most is not a change of location or relationship, but a fundamental rescue of heart, and this is exactly what God's grace in the person of the Holy Spirit provides for us.

***For further study and encouragement: Mark 7:14-23
Taken from New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp***

*Dear Father, like Zacchaeus, we all sometimes need to change our lives and do better.
r. Thank You for Jesus who has made it possible for us to have that second chance. In
His name, we pray. Amen.*

Phillip Eichman, Irmo, South Carolina

*Love God ~ Love Each Other ~ Love the Lost ~ Live in His Light
Amar a Dios ~ Amarse Vnos a Otros ~ Amar a los Perdidos ~ Vivir en Su Luz*



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

*PRAISE

Dayana was baptized this last week here at the building

*TRAVELING

Mark and Leanne will be traveling back to Texas

Dayanara will leave on Tuesday for Michigan

*NEW

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



***Buddy** had an issue with blood pressure and a fever this past week; will need to be cautious when around others

***Chris, Natalie and Joyce** have all been under the weather

***April** was ill this week

***Trina's son, Noah** medical tests showed essential tremors

***Jean**, friend of Buggie's, her son was killed last Monday

***Jim**, liver cancer; needs a transplant, (a request from Adrienne's niece)

***Tank** was in the hospital this past week

Trina's 19-year-old cousin, Jordan, had surgery this past week after his lung collapsed; a recurrent problem; has already had surgery before for this

Buggy is doing better but is still not stabilized

Don, Mary N.'s son in Missouri, had shoulder surgery on Friday

Demetrio has an appointment with a neurologist in January

Billy, Debra's son unspoken prayer

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

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

We have moved several of those on our New Prayer List to the Long-Term Prayer List that will put out once a month so please remember to let us know updates on any of those on prayer lists so we can give updates! Just because we move the name off does not mean we are not to continue to pray for that person.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

I Thessalonians 5:11

God, a call, a note, and a handclasp from a friend are simple and seemingly insignificant. Yet, you inspire these gifts from people we have a special affection for. These cherished acts of friendship nudge aside doubts about who we are when we feel low and encourage our hearts in a way that lifts our spirits. Thank you for the friends you have given us.