

February

2, 2025

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

Important Dates and INFORMATION

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

If you will help out with a dessert or cookies let LaDona know.

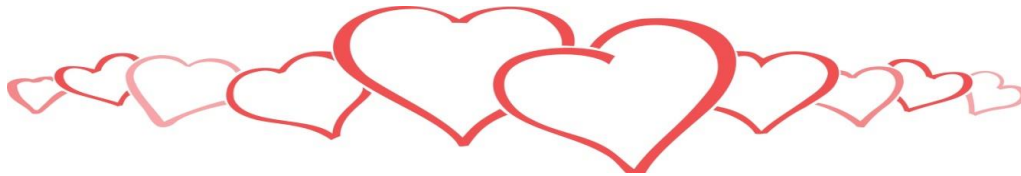
February 4 - Elders' Meeting at 8:00 am.

February 23 -26 - COLOURS CELEBRATION - The schedule of events papers are on the back table

March 1 - Prayer Breakfasts

Men's at 8:00 a.m. in the kitchen

Women's at 9:30 location to be determined



For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts . . . We are afflicted in every way; but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

2 Corinthians 4:6, 8-9

Lord, sometimes the weight of circumstances feels too heavy for me, but I know that you promised not to give me more than I can bear. So today, as you give me strength to live, help me not carry the unnecessary concerns of tomorrow. Show me the light of your truth and the promise of your goodness as I learn to trust you.

Sometimes God sends the brilliant light of a rainbow to remind us of his presence, lest we forget in our personal darkness his great and gracious promises to never leave us alone.

~ Verdell Davis, *Riches Stored in Secret Places*

WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning

8:30 Bible Classes

John 17:1 ff

Classes in English & Spanish



9:00 Prayer Worship

Please give us your requests

9:30 Worship Service

Worship in English & Spanish

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

MySpectrumWiFif8-2G

MySpectrumWiFif8-5G

password: purplelemon096



A BIG THANK YOU to our cooks for February

February 6 – Buggie

February 13 – Adrienne and Barbara

February 20 – Spaghetti dinner from Community Chest

February 27 – Barbara Pflugh

Pastors Corner of Light: I Have Learned to be Content

If you read **1 Phil 4:6-13** you will get the full gist of Paul's comment. His final words in this passage are: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." I am certain God is strengthening Paul and brings Paul into a successful and fulfilled life because he is in tune with God's will/wishes. Sometimes our struggle with God is not because He is unfaithful to us but because our values, plans and expectations do not match His. When we read through the bible we realize that God's primary agenda is not that we would achieve a comfortable and pleasurable life but be contented and at peace.

Think about what makes you frustrated or sad. Think about what makes you satisfied and happy? What causes these feelings? How many our joys and sorrows have anything to do with the kingdom and purposes of God? How often do you mourn about your lack of conformity to His will? How often do you celebrate the outpouring of daily grace? How often are you grieved because your heart still wanders? How often are you grateful that God meets you every day with rescuing and restraining mercies? Many of us don't need a disaster to feel frustration and disappointment; no, a flat tire on the way to work can seem to wreck our whole day.

We can only experience Paul's "contentment" – the kind that does not rise or fall based on our circumstances – when what we want most for ourselves matches what God wants for us. When what we want is not the thing that God wants most for us, then we are living at cross-purposes with Him and this causes us to struggle to see Him as kind, good, faithful, and loving. And when we begin to question the goodness of God, we stop going to Him for help and instead we seek help only from those in this world who are immediately available. Why are we failing to see God and to hear His words? It is not because He has forsaken us. It is not because He is silent. It is because while we are worrying about why our lives have been so hard, God is working on something much more significant and glorious than the comforts of the moment. With wisdom, faithfulness, and rescuing grace, He is securing our eternal rescue. And that is a reason to continually celebrate!

We will never get the freedom and long-term satisfaction we thought self-rule would bring. Ignoring God is never a pathway to blessing.

There are two lies that tempt each of us somehow, some way. They are the lies that fueled the disastrous choice of Adam and Eve in that moment of temptation in the garden. Yes, it is true, these lies have as much power today as they did then. The first is the lie of *autonomy*. This lie says that you are an independent human being with the right to live as you wish. Now, if you're a parent, you know that our children fall into embracing that lie. That's why they don't hunger for more of your correction and don't esteem your authority. From day one, our children want to believe that their lives belong to them and that they are the only authority that they need. But we *don't* belong to ourselves. If God created us – and he did – then we belong to him. I am a painter by avocation, and when I finish a painting, it belongs to me precisely because I made it. The painting is not autonomous. In the same way, human autonomy is a lie.

The second lie is the lie of *self-sufficiency*, which tells me that I have everything I need within myself to be what I was created to be and to do what I was designed to do. The fact is that God is the only self-sufficient being in the universe. We were created for dependency, first on God and then on one another in loving community. We need to be taught, encouraged, warned, strengthened, forgiven, healed, restored, counseled, loved, rebuked, and delivered – all things we cannot provide for ourselves. Human self-sufficiency is a lie.

So Jesus calls us to reject the lie and come to him. Under his yoke is the only place where true freedom can be found. He says: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30). There is freedom to be found, but not in empty promises of autonomy and self-sufficiency. True freedom is only ever found when grace ties your heart to Christ. Freed from trying to be what you can't be and to do what you were not designed to do, you are now free to carry the light burdens of forgiveness-giving and life-restoring grace.

For further study and encouragement: Genesis 3

(Taken from *New Morning Mercies* by Paul David Tripp)

THE WORDS WE SAY

The words we say are scratches deep
Upon the surface bare;
We can remove the varnish, but
The markings are still there.

Some things there are we cannot mend,
Or wrest to former glow;
For once the grain is scored in pain
The scars will ever show.

~ Roxie Lusk Smith



Prayer REQUESTS

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.

NEW

- ❖ **Lord, give me concern and compassion for the lost I meet today. Open doors so I might share YOUR message!**
 - ❖ **Peaceful transition for our government**
 - ❖ **Buddy and Darlene** leave tomorrow for Texas for Darlene's sister's 75 birthday; flying back on February 9th
 - ❖ Some of **Nina's family members** are traveling this week
 - ❖ **Westley's** court date is tomorrow
 - ❖ Praises and prayers for our rain
 - ❖ Praises that **Connie's** biopsy results came back good
 - ❖ **Vivian** continues to struggle with her high-blood pressure issues
 - ❖ **Rose** fell and broke her ankle
 - ❖ **Colleen**, Sharon's family member, collapsed; may be the result of heart problems
- Tammy**, a friend of James, had a stroke
Mary C. continues to struggle with a respiratory problem
Trina's dad needs to get his house sold as soon as possible
Janiel, Nina's granddaughter, lost her job
Kristina, Debra's co-worker, is struggling with serious liver/kidney problems
Lynn M. and **Nick B.** are struggling with health issues
Debra's co-worker is having internal bleeding problems.
Wayne, Trina's friend, had a stroke.
Bill, Debra's brother, cancer treatments
Casey, a young friend of Nancy's, stage 4 cancer in his face is on a feeding tube;
One of Earl's nephews is serving in Syria; prayers for all our first responders
Mary C's granddaughter has been incarcerated
Robert continues to struggle with back pain
Ron's brother/wife, serious health issues and other difficulties
Hannah, Trina's daughter, continued prayer for her
Wendy, member of Debra's family, brain cancer
Everett, a relative of Nancy's, is nearing his final days due to his cancer.
Mary P.'s relative, Sam, is recovering from a **serious** heart condition
Chris and Jonah, friends of Trina's who are soldiers in the Middle East
Our Youth to pray to make good choices
For those that have upcoming tests this week or test results

