



God's Grace Is Greater

One stumble does not define or break a person. Though you failed, God's love does not. Face your failures with faith in God's goodness. He tells you what he told Joshua: "Arise, go. You and all this people to the land which I am giving" (Joshua 1:2 NKJV). There is no condition in that covenant. God's Promised Land offer does not depend on your perfection; it depends on his.

In God's hands, no defeat is a crushing defeat. "The steps of good men are directed by the Lord. He delights in each step that they take. If they fall, it isn't fatal. For the Lord holds them with his hand" (Psalm 37:23-24 TLB). Miss this truth and miss your new beginning. You must believe that God's grace is greater than your failures. *Begin Again* ~ Max Lucado



Thursday Meals PLEASE talk with Debra so she can set the **Aug & Sep** schedules. If you will help out with a dessert or cookies let LaDona know.

Shafter Farmers Market 10 am to 2 pm downtown square
(will be Saturdays until August 15th)

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

August 1 – Thursday night dinner Cooks: Trina

August 2 – Shafter First Friday Summer Series 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

August 3 – Prayer Breakfasts ~ Men in the kitchen at 8:30 a.m.

Ladies at 9:30; in the kitchen following the men's breakfast

August 3-Shafter Farmers Market 10 am to 2 pm downtown square
(will be Saturdays until August 15th)

August 6 – Elder's Meeting 8:00 a.m.

August 9 – MOVIE NIGHT 6:00 p.m.

Back to School...Stuff the Bus: Aug 3rd, 9:00 – 12:00
at the DG Parking Lot 337 E. Lerdo, Shafter

Kindergarten & Grades 1-3: pencil box, crayons, colored pencils, washable markers, erasers, No.2 pencils, pencil grips, pencil sharpener, glue sticks, blunt-tipped scissors, tissues, backpack, wide-ruled notebook or pad, lunchbox or bag, assorted construction paper. Grade 1-3 – all the above plus ruler/index cards

Grade 4 – 5: pencil pouch, No. 2 pencils, pencil sharpener, highlighters, washable markers, erasers, Personal organizer/calendar, three-ring binder, 3-hole-punch, loose-leaf paper or spiral notebooks, plastic folders, glue, scissors, calculator, blue/black ballpoint pens, book socks, backpack, lunchbox or bag, index cards, ruler, subject dividers.

BIBLE CLASS

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

John John 5:14ff

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

Pastor's Corner of Light: "To Church or Not To Church"

In "*Christianity Today*" there was an article by Adam Carrington, "*People Perish for Lack of Religion*" where he notes that a new study emphasizes that a loss of religion has led to a rise of physical or mental suffering resulting in more deaths from despair in the form of induced overdose, other forms of suicide and health issues from alcoholism. He reflects on two ways in which people suffer when they are separated from church. "First, without church, we lack full communion with God; second, without church, we lack full knowledge of God" and I would add a third – we lack social support without our Christian family

Responding to this tragic rise in deaths can feel like this is an overwhelming, insurmountable task. The truth is that the church community has a tremendous amount to offer to those who are crying out for help. This is done by meeting physical needs, serving sacrificially, and building relationships that create the trust needed for spiritual conversations – in this way the church can help people find hope and peace!

In our latest trends we have begun to live as if our religion is just that – "our" religion and thus community is something we can take or leave. But the truth is, when we look at the beginning of creation we see very clearly that created humans are meant to be social by nature "*It is not good for the man to be alone.*"(Gen 2:18) What was good for Adam was a community for which Eve was the first manifestation. The breakdowns and internal struggles of our marriages are symptomatic of a situation which lacks sufficient or healthy mutual participation. Removal from participation in the body of Christ starves the soul, denying it the spiritual food that it desperately needs.

Mtt 18:20 "For where 2 or 3 have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." To separate yourself from church is to miss an opportunity to be with Christ. To separate yourself from church is to miss an opportunity to receive God's love from His family and to miss an opportunity to fulfill one of the great commandments: love your neighbor. Missing church denies us the opportunity to encourage and be encouraged; to disciple and be disciplined. In the same way that iron sharpens iron – we miss the opportunity to help one another to walk the straight and narrow path. Just like a seed needs sun, water and soil – so we too need the learning, wisdom, example and encouragement of our brothers/sisters. Acts 2:46 illustrates this "Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart". And consider this: a person who is seeking a stable, enriched life could not do any better than involving themselves in a community whose sole desire is to look after one another and stimulate one another into actions of love and good deeds. This is the mantra, if you would, of the Church (Heb 10:24). Be an active family member!!!

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! I sort of like the old tunes that bring soft memories to mind and that soothe my soul with the sounds of days gone by. But those new songs have rhythm and a beat that the kids of today are moving to, and I must confess, they are very catchy. God, I pray to stay in touch and in tune with where your Spirit is luring me, and all of us, to go. My fear of tomorrow I relinquish to your love of me today.

Wise People Choose Mercy

By Rick Warren 07-24-2024

“Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends.”

Proverbs 17:9 (TLB)

The Bible says wisdom *“is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds”* (James 3:17 NLT). In other words—even when people mess up, sin, fumble, and fail—it’s wise to show grace.

God is both the wisest and most merciful being in the universe. Everything you have in life—even your next breath—is a gift from him. If we got what we deserved, we wouldn’t be alive. Yet God gives us exactly what we need, not what we deserve. He’s full of mercy.

In the same way, wise people give others what they need, not what they deserve. Wise people don’t emphasize other’s mistakes; instead, wise people are merciful. They cut people slack—because they know God cuts them slack all the time.

When you judge, you’re being foolish. But when you’re merciful, you’re reflecting God.

Proverbs 17:9 says, *“Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends”* (TLB).

I saw a beautiful example of this in Mike, a man who had been on the Saddleback facilities staff for many years. I ran into him on the day he and his wife, Sally, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Sally was getting ready to drive off, so I walked over to her car to congratulate her. I asked her, “What is the secret of a 50-year marriage?” She looked at me and said, “Pastor, I never tried to change him.”

After she drove off, I walked over to Mike and said, “Mike, what’s the secret to 50 years of marriage?” He said, “I never tried to change her.”

Through 50 years of marriage, Sally and Mike surely had seen each other fumble and fail many times. But, instead of foolishly judging, they chose, as Proverbs 17:9 says, to forget each other’s mistakes. They wisely showed mercy over and over again.

Today, tomorrow, and the next day, choose to show mercy to the people around you. Living a wise life that’s full of mercy will pay great dividends for you in the long run.

Talk It Over

- When did someone show you mercy rather than giving you what you deserved? What effect did that have on your life?
- Where do you see evidence of God’s mercy in your life?
- In what relationship have you been judgmental instead of merciful? What’s one practical way you can offer mercy to that person today?

Where will you spend eternity?

- Your sins separate you from God. And it is only God’s grace that allows you back into a right relationship with him.
- The Bible says, *“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV).



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.

TRAVELING

Ron and Nancy enjoying the cool weather at the coast

Glen, Trina's dad flying home from Oklahoma after finding house in Muskogee for his move **April**, returning home this week after visit with daughter in Idaho

Darlene and Jan are at the coast today; be home tonight

* NEW

* **Buddy** continued prayers

* **Michelle and Scott**, friend of Trina's traveling out of country hopefully will be returning home from Greece. A GoFundMe account has been set up to help with major medical bill if you care to assist or speak to Trina

***Garry** has an angiogram tomorrow morning

Prayers that **Cheryl White** is allowed to go home soon from the rehab center

Christine, Mary C's daughter, is having knee surgery this week

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.

Hannah, Trina's daughter, continued prayer for life circumstances

Wesley, Connie's son, pray he has a good result in his court appearance in August in Idaho.

Ron Nunlist, pray for continued improvement with his cough and voice

Barbara as she continues physical therapy for her shoulder

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

Many with ongoing issues were moved to the long-term prayer list.

If you would, please remember to email or text Jan or Sandy with any updates or changes on those on the long-term prayer list so we can keep the list current.

Also, the same for our weekly prayer list; we would greatly appreciate it. We know that our prayer warriors pray specifics for each person

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~Philippians 4:4-7