

SEPTEMBER

17, 2023

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

IMPORTANT DATES

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 21 Barbara Sept 28 Ann & Jan
See Debra and Vivian with questions on Thursday Scheduling

September 23 - Annual Fall Ladies Day at West Visalia Church of Christ. "Changed Into A New Creation" 2 Cor 5: 17. MEET AT THE CHURCH PARKING LOT AT 7:30 a.m.

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.



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.

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM

read Exodus 11-14

**Children's Class: Debra
Mark & Leann**

PRAYER & SOCIAL TIME 9:00 AM

WORSHIP TIME

9:30 AM

Elders

Eddie Fisher 342-8337
Garry Nelson 746-3074
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

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

MySpectrum WiFif8-2G

MySpectrum WiFif8-5G

password: purplelemon096



Pastor's Corner of Light: Friendship is More Than Being an Acquaintance

Last week I wrote an encouragement for improving our good relationships to make them “great”. As Christian brothers and sisters we should always strive to develop our relationships - that is what **Heb 10:24,25** is all about (stimulating one another to good works & encouraging one another). In **Luke 17:11-19** Jesus heals ten lepers. One of those lepers (who is the only one to return to Jesus and thank Him) is even a Samaritan who were despised by the Jews. In **Mark 2:15,16** Jesus is “accused” of eating with tax-collectors and other sinners. Jesus was clearly no respecter of persons. **John 3:16** tells us that God loves the “whole” world and **Rom 5:8** says He died while we were still sinners. The God-Head loves us so outrageously that God the Son ended up dying in order to restore our relationship with them. If God can act in such an extremely loving way, then it is not surprising that we are told in John **13:35** “By this all men will know that you are My disciples **if you have love for one another.**”

Jesus’ illustration of love was not limited to His coming to earth and dying on the cross. Jesus “LIVED” a life of love for those around Him. Jesus honored and respected the poor, the broken, the messy and the marginalized. Jesus ate with sinners and even prayed for the greatest sinners of all time: “Father, for give them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (**Luke 23:34**, Jesus on the cross) There can be no doubt about the sincerity of Jesus’ requirement that we love even OUR enemies (**Matt 5:43ff**) and more than this – pray for them – “therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” It appears that we can imitate God and the Son by “loving”. And loving means helping (go the extra mile/give the coat) which means being a friend to all those who we find broken and lying in the ditch (Good Samaritan). Clearly Jesus values relationships above any and everything else. I truly believe that the rich man ended up in Hades because he daily crossed paths with Lazarus who sat outside his gates – AND DID NOTHING TO HELP HIM! We may not be called and are not able to solve all the world’s problems but we are called to have our eyes and our hearts open to the suffering going on in our own private world. In the **2 Cor 5:20** passage regarding our being God’s ambassadors – it states that we SHOULD **BE** the righteousness of God. in the same way Christ responded to any and ALL who came to Him - so we too should be responsive to those who we can bring the gospel of salvation to and help in their brokenness.

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!
~ 1 Corinthians 13:12 MSG

Yes, you live in a world where evil still exists, but the One who conquered sin and death is still with you.

It is the disastrous duo – the evil outside us and the evil that still remains inside us. It is not just that we live in a world where evil still exists. If that were our only problem, life would be much easier and simpler. No, the danger of the external evil that we all face very day is made incredibly greater by the evil that lives inside us. You see, it is only ever the evil inside you that magnetizes you to the evil outside you. Sin is only ever attractive to a sinner. It really is true, “To the pure, all things are pure” (Titus 1:15). The problem is that none of us are yet completely pure. Yes, by the operation of powerful grace, we are purer than we once were. But here is our dilemma; our purification from sin – that work that will not end until every last microbe of sin is eradicated from every single cell of every heart of every believer – is a lifelong process and not a single event. The process of heart purification is taking place in the environment of a dramatically broken world that is not functioning as God intended and where evil lurks around every corner. And there is not a day in our lives when internal and external evil do not intersect somehow, some way.

Are you discouraged as you read this? Does it seem to you that God’s will is both irrational and impossible, as if life in the fallen world is the ultimate nasty trick? Well, you must remember that you have not been sent out into this world on your own. You have not been asked to do the impossible in your own strength. You have not been asked to journey through this dark world all by yourself. And you surely haven’t been asked to comfort yourself by denying the presence and power of the internal and external evil that you deal with every day. As Jesus was sending his disciples out into this dark world to bring the message of the gospel to those enshrouded by evil external and controlled by evil internal, he said something that really changes everything: “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20).

Jesus doesn’t send us out with a pack of principles and promises. He doesn’t just guide our travels with a set of rules. No, he does so much more. He comes with us! He knows that we’ll never make it unless he is with us in every moment of every situation, location, and relationship. He is not a rescue squad that leaps into action in our moment of trouble. He’s there with us in trouble because he’s been there with us all along. In our struggle with evil, he gives us the only gift that will help us – he gives us himself, because he knows that in him we really do find everything we need until our journey has ended. *He* is the best gift of his grace.

For further study and encouragement: Isaiah 7:10-17 and Matthew 1:23

Taken from New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp

BLOOPERS

- The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It is a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

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 until the 26th

Nunlists and Nelsons are at the coast for PCV meeting

Mark and Leann are on their way to Texas

Syble continues to travel and see some sights with Scott

*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

***James' Aunt Pat** fell and broke her ankle and Aunt **Laurie** is struggling with family issues

* **Dee**, Earl's daughter-in-law, had breast cancer surgery on Friday

* **Mark** was not feeling well; he and Leann left for Texas

***Janese**, dealing with some family issues

***Tom Vontz** recovering from surgery for colon cancer

***LaDona** as she recuperates from her fall; having back pain

***Rose's** tests on September 11 showed no blockages in her legs; great news

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, Tina's son-in-law, is suffering with arthritis

Robert is home but is still suffering from serious pain in his back and hips

Buggy is struggling with her diabetes

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

Billy, Debra's son unspoken prayer

Hannah and Ibra, in escrow waiting to close and move

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

Mikey and Kirin's home closed and they are moving in this week.

