

Upcoming Events

Plan Congregational Meeting: Financial Report
Mid-course Review: Saturday Meeting 2021
Panera Bread Open Bible Study:
New location: see church website

New Address: Sandra Jones
85170 Corte del Roble, Coachella, CA 92236

Being Unselfish

“Helping one person might not change the world, but it could change the world for one person.” Anonymous

“A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.”
James Keller

“Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

August Birthdays

4 Noah Perales 6 Gigi Zamarripa 12 Debbie Hoffman
16 Nick Hoffman 19 Keith Lovelady 25 Pat Limburg

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

Church of Christ
81-377 Ave 46
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(Address Service Requested)

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Inconvenient!

By Joe Slater

Suppose we changed our meeting time to 3 AM on Sundays. While we might not like it, many of us would be here despite the inconvenience. Now, relax! There are no plans to change the meeting time! It brings up the question, though: How willing are we to be inconvenienced in our service to God?

Antonius Felix, governor of Judea, didn't like what he was hearing as Paul was instructing him in the gospel. "Go away for now," Felix said. "*When I have a convenient time, I will call for you*" (Acts 24:25). As far as the record goes, that convenient time never came. The governor wasn't much interested in becoming a Christian anyway; mostly he was hoping Paul would pay a bribe.

Unlike Felix, Christians are interested in hearing and doing the will of God. (Or we're supposed to be, anyway.) Are we willing to be inconvenienced for the Lord? Let's be specific: Are we willing to make a visit instead of watching our favorite TV program? Or does that visit have to wait until we have "spare time"? Would we reschedule a vacation if it conflicted with a Gospel Meeting? Would we attend services rather than getting an early start on that business trip? In short, are we willing to put God (not our convenience) first?

The early Christians certainly did not practice a religion of convenience! How convenient was it to be beaten or imprisoned for proclaiming the gospel? Was walking all over the country to tell people about Jesus convenient? And if we can believe the historical records, the early Christians often met around sunrise on the first day of the week since that was the only time that the slaves could attend. No doubt it would have been more convenient for everyone, especially the slaves, just to stay home to get a little extra sleep.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus left the splendor of Heaven to come to this earth, taking upon Himself a body of human flesh. What if He had said, "No, it just isn't convenient for Me right now." Think of the times Jesus spent all day teaching and healing, only to spend all night in prayer. Not exactly convenient, wouldn't you say? And where would we be if, when His crucifixion was imminent, Jesus had backed out because it wasn't convenient?

There is nothing wrong with accommodating convenience where we can. But brethren, God has gone to a great deal of trouble for us! May it never be that we would insult Him by serving Him only when it is convenient.

Ten Misplaced Desires?

By Steve Higginbotham

Maybe you've heard the story about three old friends who were shipwrecked on a deserted island. After nearly a year of being castaways, a bottle floated up on the beach. One of the men opened it, and out popped a genie granting one wish to each of the three friends. Without any hesitation, the first friend said, "I wish I were back home in Knoxville." Poof! He was gone. The second friend immediately said, "I wish I were back home in Knoxville, too." Poof! Immediately he was gone. The third man was more deliberate. He told the genie he wanted to think about it a bit longer to make sure he didn't waste his wish. After a full two months of isolation on the island, he said to the genie, "I've reached my decision. Over the past two months I've come to realize how much I miss my friends. It's been so lonely here without them, so I wish my two friends were back here with me." And poof! (Groan here).

I believe we can all recognize the misplaced desire this man had. The desire for companionship with his friends was noble, but that desire was misplaced if it meant calling them back to the island. But now, before we laugh at this man we had better realize that sometimes, we too have misplaced desires; good and noble desires, but they can be misplaced due to context. Let me offer ten misplaced desires we sometimes have.

- We want a Savior, but we don't want a Lord.
- We want a crown, but we don't want a cross.
- We want a harvest, but we don't want to sow any seed.
- We want to go to Heaven, but we don't want to go to church.

- We want to grow spiritually, but we don't want to feed on his word.
- We want Hollywood to "clean up its act," but we don't want to stop watching.
- We want the right to pray, even in school, but we don't want to pray.
- We want the 10 Commandments posted, but we don't want to live by their moral principles.
- We want to love God, but we don't want to abhor sin.
- We want to die the death of the righteous, but we don't want to abandon the lifestyle of the sinner.

The man who wanted his friends to rejoin him on that deserted island was pretty short-sighted, but not nearly as short-sighted as those whose wants are identified above. Give it some thought.

Love People; Use Things

By Joe Slater

I expect you've seen the title of this article practiced in reverse, as I have: "Use People; Love Things." Sad, but true. King Solomon observed, "*The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor. But the rich has many friends*" (Proverbs 14:20). Now, why would a poor man's neighbors hate him? And why would a rich man have many friends? The poor man doesn't have much to offer materially, so his neighbors can't use him. The rich man's "friends," however, see opportunity to use him to their advantage. "*Many entreat the favor of nobility, and every man is a friend to one who gives gifts*" (Proverbs 19:6).

The Pharisees in John 8 used the woman taken in adultery to try to put Jesus into a dilemma. They cared nothing for her soul. All they wanted was to have an excuse to criticize the Lord. By contrast, Jesus loved her and sought her redemption.

The "good Samaritan" in Luke 10 loved his neighbor and used his money and other possessions to help him. Love people; use things. The man who had been robbed and beaten could do nothing materially for the Samaritan. But he needed help, and the Samaritan provided it.

As Jesus said, "*Go and do likewise*" (Lk. 10:37).