

Upcoming Events...

1 Corinthians Class: Every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.

Barnabas Group Meeting: August 29

Our Fall Gospel Meeting with Erik Borlaug, October 1-4

The Inspiration of Every Word

Excerpted from article by Dan Jenkins

Understanding the nature of inspiration will open doors to deeper understanding as you study the Bible. Consider that when Moses brought the tablets of stone down from Mount Sanai there were no misspelled words on those stones. Every word was chosen by God. Every single letter of every word had been chosen and written by the hand of God...Read your Bible and look at every word in every verse. It will open many doors of deeper understanding. Every letter of every word has been chosen by God!

September Birthdays

2 Linda McGraw 3 Wendy Cortes 11 Marie Burruss
15 Marcos Perales 16 Jim Burruss 24 Mason Perales
30 Dortha Gentry 30 Kurt Hoffman

September Anniversaries

13 Wendy & Luis Cortes

Indio Informer

Vol. 28 No. 35

August 27, 2017

Practical Suggestions for Preparing for Worship

(A montage of various thoughts on the subject)

For the Christian, there is likely no sweeter moment in the week than Sunday morning. How good it is to meet with God and His people! Because it is part of our weekly activity, there may be a temptation to treat it as common and routine (possibly has happened to us all). However, we all know it should never be so. One of the ways to ensure that this is not the case with us is to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for worship each week. If we take the time and effort (and it does require these things), our soul will be the beneficiary.

The truth is many of us walk into worship not quite ready to worship. We need a little time to center and focus ourselves. Some of us may be frustrated with our kids. Some may be disheartened about our work. Some may be stressed about the demands of school or the deadlines of our jobs. Others may be depressed or apathetic about life. Yet others may be fearful, distraught, or mourning. Weekly worship calls us back into a story with the emotional highs and lows of sin and salvation, so we all need to recalibrate. (Zac Hicks)

So we must give thought to this and prepare ourselves for worship. How do we do that? What are we to do? First, acknowledge that worship is of central importance. We know we are not to neglect to meet together (Hebrews 10:25). Expressing joy in Christ together is vital for us as Christians. We should think of the time of our worship together as more important than a class exam, more important than a key presentation at work, more important than a job interview or a league championship. Therefore, probably all of us agree that we should prepare ourselves for worship as least as well as we prepare ourselves for these other events.

Regular Meeting Times

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

Church of Christ

81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

Preacher:

Mike McKnight

(Address Service Requested)

Second, prepare ourselves physically by getting sufficient rest the night before. We will not worship God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength if we are drowsy because of late activities Saturday night.

Pray for the time of worship. Pray for all those involved in leading the service; pray for the preaching of the Word; pray that others would come to the service prepared; pray for our own heart to be receptive to the Word; pray against the devil's attempts to distract us and others from coming and being attentive.

Pre-service preparation. The short period of time between our arrival at church, or the short time after our Bible class time, and the beginning of the worship service is also a critical period of time. Our interaction with friends reminds us that we are here as part of a body in relationship with others. A short while to quiet our spirits will enable us to leave some distractions behind and center ourselves in God. How conscious are we of these critical few minutes?

Few things make it harder to fully engage in worship than arriving just on time or late. Arriving early gives us plenty of time to find a place to sit, and then center our hearts through the word and prayer. A few practical suggestions: arrive at church services at least 15 minutes before the service begins so that we may take care of miscellaneous details, have time to meet others, encourage someone, take babies to the nursery and have children use restrooms. Remember to silence pagers, cell phones, and other electronic devices (consider leaving them at home). Consider being seated a few minutes before the service actually begins; take time for personal reflection, possibly read a few passages from our Bible, and/or review the songs to be sung.

Solomon wrote, "*Guard your steps when you go to the house of God*" (Eccl. 5:1). The phrase guard your steps means to proceed with reverence. We should come with care and caution. We should come with dignity and respect. It has been said that sometimes we "do church" as many "do lunch," casually and unprepared. Our hearts and minds don't show profound awe and respect. We don't anticipate God's presence or voice. Consequently, we're unable to

experience the presence of God that will stir our souls, change our lives, and satisfy our hunger for meaning.

Self-evaluation: Let's ask ourselves questions such as: what can I do to get myself prepared for the worship service? Are my actions encouraging and beneficial to the group as we prepare for worship? Do I pay attention to the time and get myself seated and quietly ready for worship? Do my actions prior to the service distract from the important orderly demeanor and reverence needed in our service to God. Ultimately, the bottom line questions are: am I preparing myself for the worship service? Am I helping or hindering others in doing the same?

Let's come to worship prepared to worship. Pray before we come so we will be ready to pray when you arrive. Sleep before we come so we will stay alert when we arrive. Read the Word before we come so our heart will be soft when we worship. Come hungry. Come willing. Come expecting God to speak. Come anticipating a memorable experience with the Creator of the universe.

Scriptures about Being Prepared...

*"Therefore, **prepare your minds** for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."* 1 Peter 1:13

*"And that slave who knew his master's will and did not **get ready** or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes."* Luke 12:47

*"**Prepare** your work outside and make it ready for yourself in the field; afterwards, then, build your house."* Proverbs 24:27

*"But **keep on the alert** at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."* Luke 21:36

Can we apply the principles of these scripture to preparing for worship?