

FYI

New Members: please welcome **Garroll and Olivia White**; their address is 38548 Bent Palm Dr., Palm Desert, CA 92211; phone number is (760) 200-2615.

Read through the Bible in 2016!

(Submitted by Mike McKnight)

Suggested chapters to read so that we might read through the entire Bible during 2016! **This week's "schedule":**

- **Day 235** - Jeremiah 49-50 Monday
- **Day 236** - Jeremiah 51-52 Tuesday
- **Day 237** - Lamentations 1; Lamentations 2; Lamentations 3:1-36 Wednesday
- **Day 238** - Lamentations 3:37-66; Lamentations 4; Lamentations 5:1-22 Thursday
- **Day 239** - Ezekiel 1-4 Friday
- **Day 240** - Ezekiel 5-8 Saturday
- **Day 241** - Ezekiel 9-12 Sunday

September Birthdays

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

September Anniversary

13 Wendy & Luis Cortes

Regular Meeting Times

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

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

Church of Christ

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Famous Last Words

By the editor

The following famous last words, and many others, have either led to injury or death:

- “You wouldn’t hit a guy with glasses on, would you?”
- “Bikers are wimps!”
- “Nice doggy.”
- “I’m making a citizen’s arrest.”
- “I can pass this guy!”
- “Trust me, I know what I’m doing.”
- “I don’t need to go to the hospital.”
- “Don’t worry, we outnumber them.”

There are some famous last words in the Bible, including Revelation, the last book of the New Testament, (Revelation 22:6-21) that can also lead to death...eternal death. But, unlike the funny last words that I just shared, these **famous last words can also lead to life...eternal life**. In these final verses, John concludes his book by giving us the bottom line...that we must trust Christ’s word.

Interestingly, the book of Revelation might have ended with 22:1-5. *“Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, ² in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; ⁴ they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.”*

In these five verses, John explained that the curse is over and believers will reign forever. This may seem like a perfect conclusion to the Revelation. However, in the very next verse, one of the angels who had the seven bowls continues to speak to John and says, *“These words are faithful and true.”* They are faithful and true because Jesus Christ Himself is faithful and true. We can believe His words. Verse 7 then says, *“Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”*

Most of us are familiar with the **beatitudes** from the Sermon on the Mount that Jesus offered His followers. But did you realize that nearly 40 years later, in the book of Revelation, the ascended Christ offered additional beatitudes to motivate Christians to remain faithful?

Perhaps you've noticed this, that in the book of Revelation, with its seven churches, seven seals and seven trumpets, there are also **seven beatitudes** that Jesus wants us to apply in our walk with Him. Seven is often considered the biblical number that symbolizes completion, so let's take a brief look at a couple of these “beatitudes” and find out what God says we need to do to be complete.

The New Testament uses the Greek *makarios* (usually translated “blessed”) fifty-eight times. *Makarios* appears in eleven of the New Testament books. Occasionally, the Greek is translated “happy” but that translation is somewhat lacking of the real emphasis. “Our English word ‘happy’ is not adequate to denote the state of blessedness which the original word describes. **Blessedness** is a condition resulting from a state of **inner peace**; whereas happiness (derived from *hap*, chance) is dependent on external circumstances.

Look at the last of the “beatitudes”, extremely important **“famous last words”** in the whole Bible: *“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city”* (Revelation 22:14) (KJV).

There are some who teach that obeying commandments is not important. They say that since salvation is a gift (Ephesians 2:8 *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God”*), that obeying commandments would be earning

salvation. Even though obeying commandments has no power to buy salvation, the Lord **HAS NOT** promised the gift of salvation to those who refuse to obey Him. In the beatitude above, the tree of life and heaven are promised to those who **DO HIS COMMANDMENTS!**

Is there any other way to show Jesus that we love Him? Some have said, “Is it not enough just to acknowledge Him by saying, ‘Lord, Lord’”? Often it’s important to give answers to others this way...**Jesus Himself** says...; here are a couple of perfect examples to make the point of the importance! Jesus Himself says...

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? (Luke 6:46).

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. (John 14:21).

To those who keep His commandments, the tree of life is promised. The tree of life is first mentioned, in the book of Genesis, as growing in the Garden of Eden. However, when Adam and Eve sinned, they no longer had access to the tree of life. *“Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’—therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken”* (Gen. 3:22,23). The tree of life was lost!

It is recorded in the Book of Revelation that John later saw **the tree of life** in heaven! *“In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life...”* (Rev. 22:2).

As we think of this tree of life, we should remember that salvation is offered ONLY to those who obey the commandments of Jesus. *“And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”* (Heb. 5:9).

Jesus Himself, in some of His own **“famous last words”** says in Mk. 16:16, *“He who believes and is baptized shall be saved”*. Will you do that?