

Upcoming Events

Meet Up Open Bible Study:

For study subject and location: see church website

Address:

**Andrea Chandler 73-875 Santa Rosa Way #16
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

Fearing God is Obeying God

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7 A wise person will simply take the teachings (doctrine) that come from the Bible and make them a part of his or her life.

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown 27 Sue Tanner
30 Richard Karns 31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff 18 Jim & Marie Burruss

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Do You Want Bible Knowledge?

Gary Smalley

I once heard an aged gospel preacher refer to a comment he received from a person who appreciated his sermons: “I wish I knew as much about the Bible as you.” His reply was, “Lady, if you study the Bible for as many years as I have, you would know as much or more!” Bible knowledge was prized, desired and gained in the diligence of study.

Today, it is very sad to realize that there are many people who have allowed themselves to be convinced that the Bible cannot be understood. Many others hold the view that the Bible is very difficult to understand, and for that reason they do not investigate it for themselves. How dreadful and dishonorable it is for people to not know what God has spoken! The Apostle Paul said people could have the knowledge he had by reading what he had written (Ephesians 3:4; 5:17).

In many cases, people who do not study the Bible for themselves have come to rely upon preachers to provide answers to their questions. Many preachers are very happy to help as many people as possible in gaining an understanding of what God has said. It is the mission of those who preach and teach God’s word to “make all men see” or “bring to light” the wisdom of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:1ff). But we must heed the warning that Christ gave with regard to relying on men as a source of truth. Of the religious leaders of His day, He said, “...they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit” (Matthew 15:14). People should study the Bible for themselves. If they do not, they become so easily deceived (1 John 4:1).

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
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

Studying the Bible is not nearly as difficult as some would lead us to believe. Being a worthy Bible student is simple if we will follow these three basic principles:

1. Recognize that the Bible is the word of God. This amazing book is unique; no other book compares to it. The writers were men, but they wrote what the ultimate author commanded: *“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God”* (2 Peter 1:20-21). This incredible one-of-a-kind book reveals where man came from, why he is here, and where he is going. Paul said, *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Jesus Christ respected the Scriptures and regarded them as the word of God (John 17:17). We are in good company when we so regard the Bible

2. Hunger and thirst for righteousness. Following the Lord’s directive in Matthew 5:6, if we have an intense desire to obtain *“the righteousness of God”* (2 Peter 1:1; Romans 3:22; 10:3), with the same fervor we seek food and drink when hungry, we will obtain it! When we develop an appetite for regular servings of spiritual food, we will indeed grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2). These are the ones who take advantage of every opportunity to discuss and learn from God’s word.

3. Pay the price. Paul admonished, *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). Study is work. It is careful examination, analysis, seeking answers to questions with the specific purpose or intent to understand and learn. There is no “easy” button to push and no knowledge pill to take. This price is far more than most are willing to pay. The price of that filet mignon causes me to lose my desire for it and choose chicken. The price for knowing the Scriptures causes many to allow others to tell them about their religious views rather than going to the source of truth. Any who are unwilling to

do what it takes to know the Scriptures will never know and understand them as they could or should.

Yes, friend, we can obtain a great deal of Bible knowledge, if we remember and apply these simple basic principles. If we have the proper respect for the Bible as the word of God, a burning desire for the righteousness it contains, and a willingness to pay the price for success, we can understand and know what God has spoken! And with that knowledge, we can enjoy all the spiritual blessings that God has for man, which are found in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

Are We Searching for the Truth?

By Ron Bartanen

Are we searching for truth? Some are not searching because they don’t believe in absolute truth—everything to them is relative. Others are not searching because their church tells them what the truth is. These feel they already have the fullness of truth. All should heed Paul’s warning: *“Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things”* (Acts 20:30). Others seek the truth in their own hearts, though the Bible warns, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked”* (Jeremiah 17:9).

The importance of seeking truth is emphasized in Scripture. The wise man Solomon advised, *“Buy the truth and sell it not”* (Proverbs 23:23). In the marketplace of ideas, one must be careful to distinguish the true from the counterfeit. Jesus said, *“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free”* (John 8:32).

How will we know the truth when we see it? Ultimate truth is found in Jesus, who said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me”* (John 14:6). Truth is found in His word, the Scriptures, of which Paul wrote, *“All scripture is inspired of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).