

Upcoming Events...

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

Read through the Bible in 2016!

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

- **Day 340** - 2 Corinthians 10-13 Monday
- **Day 341** - Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3 Tuesday
- **Day 342** - Romans 4-7 Wednesday
- **Day 343** - Romans 8-10 Thursday
- **Day 344** - Romans 11-13 Friday
- **Day 345** - Romans 14-16 Saturday
- **Day 346** - Acts 20:4-38; Acts 21; Acts 22; Acts 23:1-35 Sunday

December Birthdays

6 Olivia White 17 Bill Brown 27 Sue Tanner
29 Noah McKnight 30 Richard Karns 31 Bob Pescador

January Birthdays

5 John Aguiar 14 Juanita Small

January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

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

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Make No Little Plans

by Russ Lawson

Recently I read an article containing a quote attributed to Chicago architect Daniel Burnham. The quotation hit a note that stirred my soul. Mr. Burnham said: "Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work. Remember that our sons and grandsons are going to do things that would stagger us."

What are your dreams. hopes. aspirations? What were they when you were younger? I received quite a compliment from an 86-year-old friend (Jim) the other day. We were talking about someone looking to hire a new man for a job. He said, "They need to get a young man right out of school who still has dreams." My reply was, "Perhaps what they need is someone older who has experience in the field." He replied, "Someone who has been doing the job for 30 years is afraid to take chances; they don't dream anymore." I paused for a moment and said, "But I've been doing this same job for 30 years." To which he replied, "Yes, but you're different; you still dream." I hope that is true.

I jokingly tell Melody, my wife of 35 years, that if nothing else, our life hasn't been dull; it's always been an adventure. How do you see your life? Are you stuck in a rut afraid to be more than you already are? I read a quote many years ago that has stuck with me. "The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth." I remember that quote and have to ask myself sometimes just which one I am in.

Do you make little plans or big ones; do you have great dreams or small ones? I like what the apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:13 where he says, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" He gives us hope, but keeps things in the proper perspective, also. I personally believe that we can do just about anything we put our mind to doing. We far too often tend to start out on some great

journey, towards some objective, and then just get worn out, tired or discouraged. The key, though, to being able to continue on life's great adventure is that we draw our strength from the right place! That source of strength, encouragement and vigor must be our God.

My prayer is that God will empower each of us to plan great plans and dream great dreams. Not just for our glory, but also for the benefit of God and the people.

Half Empty or Half Full?

by Bill Brandstatter

A teacher set a glass of water on his desk. The water reached the half-way point in the glass. He asked his students: "Is this glass half empty, or half full?" The purpose of the query was to learn who in the class were optimists and who were pessimists. The optimist would have observed that the glass was half full. The pessimist would have declared it to be half empty.

The apostle Paul was an optimist. He saw a silver lining behind every cloud. He stated that he had learned *"whatever state I am, to be content"* Philippians 4:11. How could Paul have this attitude? He wrote that statement while in a Roman prison. The answer lies in what he thought about and filled his mind with. Paul thought on things just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous and praiseworthy (Philippians 3:8). Then he encourages Christians by writing: *"things which you learned, and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you"* (Philippians 3:9). The Christian should be an optimist. There are a number of reasons a Christian should be optimistic.

First, all our fears can be overcome. John said that the victory that overcomes the world is our faith (1 John. 5:4). If I have the right kind of faith, I can be optimistic in a pessimistic world.

Second, mistakes can be forgiven. No one is so bad that God will not forgive him. We all make mistakes (Romans 3:23). Even the apostle Paul made mistakes (1 Corinthians 9:27). Someone once wrote, "He made no mistakes, he took no wrong road, he never fumbled the ball, he never went down beneath the weight of the load,

he simply did nothing at all." This is a great mistake (James 4:17). There is no reason to let sin keep us out of heaven.

Third, the great assurance by God we have in this life. Paul made a really optimistic statement when he wrote, *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."* (Romans 8:28). Paul and John both knew what it was to face temptation. Temptation can be resisted and overcome (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Fourth, our labor is not in vain in the Lord. When we are trying to reach people with the gospel, our attitude should be... Never give up, never give up, never give up. Paul admonished Christians to not *"lose heart"* (Galatians 6:9). Some measure success by numbers. Seed needs to be sown and given time to germinate. We should let God have His time (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Fifth, God has provided us with an all-sufficient guide to follow. This guide is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalms 119:105). God has provided us with all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

Sixth, man's necessities are promised. Jesus said that if the kingdom of God and righteousness were top priority, God would provide us with the necessities of life (Matthew 6:33). He provides us with many things, however, that are unseen. The spiritual blessings in Ephesians 1:3 are items which cannot be seen. They can be experienced, however, by the faithful child of God. Some of these include prayer, fellowship, and giving. From the very beginning, God has provided. He still does today. We can be happy in this life and in the life beyond. God will provide.

Christians should be optimistic for at least the above six reasons. The **seventh** reason, however, is the most important. Christians should be optimistic because they are God's people. God is on our side (Romans 8:31). God has provided a way out of sin. The Christian has sins forgiven. That alone ought to cause optimism, hope, and a brighter tomorrow.

If we looked at the glass the teacher presented, would it be half empty or half full?