

Upcoming Events...

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

Read through the Bible in 2016!

There were a couple of times during 2016 that the schedule was not published in this bulletin at the right time; if you need the Scriptures for days 347-365, just ask Jim; he will provide you the final schedule.

A Prayer for Every Day

Author Unknown

*Every day I need you Lord, but this day especially,
I need some extra strength to face whatever is to be.
This day more than any day I need to feel you near,
To fortify my courage and to overcome my fear.
By myself, I cannot meet the challenge of the hour,
There are times when humans help, but we need a higher power.
To assist us bear what must be borne, and so dear Lord, I pray -
Hold on to my trembling hand and be near me today.*

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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A New Year to Use

by Lawrence Barr

What are you planning for this new year? I want to suggest something that will help us to use it better. The idea is that we are all parts of one body, and none of us is alone! Since we have become a part of Christ, we partake of His nature. He very clearly said, "*I and the Father are one.*" The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have no selfish agendas. They are truly one in purpose, care, joy and sorrow.

That is how we should be, and must be, if we belong to the Lord! Each one of us is a member of the other. When my little toe hurts, the rest of my body does not ignore it. That toe is me. My head knows it and my hand knows it. So with all my parts I care for that sore toe.

When something good or bad happens to a member of the body of Christ, that thing is happening to the entire body. In a way, when I try to comfort or help another part of the body, I am helping my other self. So think "body" this year. Think of the whole to which we all belong. We belong to each other. Let us be as connected to one another as the parts of our physical bodies are connected. Then we will fulfill the prayer of Jesus, "*that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me*" (John 17:21, NIV).

Henceforth let us resolve we shall no more look at a brother or sister thinking what that person owes us or ought to do for us. Instead let us build one another up. Then, and only then, will we find all our individual needs met!

WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

by Bill Brandstatter

In questioning Jesus, Pilate asked the question: *"what is the truth?"* (John 18:38) This is a question that transcends time and reaches even unto this day. Many today are asking the same question. Some have arrived at what is believed to be the answer. Others are still looking. Let us examine for a minute what the truth is not. In so doing, perhaps we can determine what is the truth.

The truth is not based on just man's opinion. One man stated, "Opinions are like noses, everybody has one." There may be much truth in that simple statement. The fact is, opinion is like the wind; it can change with different conditions. Many have opinions, but not all opinions are truth. There are basically two kinds of opinion. There are subjective opinion and objective. Subjective opinions are usually based on feelings, notions, ideas, and past experiences. Sometimes these opinions are fueled by feelings at a given moment in time. Objective opinions, however, are based on fact. For example, if I tell you that it is my opinion that my car will not run without gasoline, that would be an example of objective opinion. Objective opinion is based on truth. Subjective is not.

The criteria for determining truth can also vary with the individual. The question might be asked: Who or what is the authority in a particular matter? Often the right authority is not consulted. Therefore, the truth is not seen. If in religious circles, I consider what "they" say regarding certain matters, I might not arrive at the truth. Jesus stated a number of times in Matthew chapters 5 and 6, *"You have heard it said, but I say unto you."* He was attempting to lead those to whom He was speaking into the truth. He stated that we could know the truth (John 8:32). He also stated that He was the truth (John 14:6). To understand and obey Jesus is to know and follow the truth. He is the right authority, not man or some religious official.

Truth can be determined. Truth is attainable. The source of all truth is God. To answer the question, What is truth?, I need only to go to the word of God and look at what it says. Like those Christians at Berea, I should *"search the scriptures daily whether those things were so"* (Acts 17:11).

Rules for Studying Revelation

Quoted or paraphrased from Homer Hailey's Commentary

1. Keep in mind this question, "What did the book mean to the people of the day to whom it was written? ANY INTERPRETATION THAT OMITTS THIS POINT IS INVALID." We need to have some understanding of the conditions under which those saints lived, and the spiritual needs of the time (i.e. revelation and instruction of Christ's present rule, and encouragement and assurance of victory in time of severe crisis).
2. A good understanding of the Old Testament is helpful, particularly of the prophets, and especially Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah which use similar signs and symbols. In giving to the church a revelation of truth in visions and symbols (as in Revelation), there must necessarily be some divine basis on which to interpret the message. THE TOTAL OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT IS THE BASIS.
3. All interpretations must be consistent with the total teaching of the remainder of the New Testament. If there is contradiction between the two, it requires of necessity that the viewpoint be reexamined.

The message in Revelation to the saints is an assurance of victory. Jesus came into the world claiming to be the Christ and the Son of God. Those claims had to be proved; after being tested and put to death, he verified by His resurrection that He indeed proved Himself. He also taught that the kingdom was at hand; the apostles preached it as being established, saying that the saints were in it. The claims about the kingdom needed to be proved and verified. The claim about its divine beginning and its ability to endure was tested by satan's effort to destroy the church. The book of Revelation would assure Christians that, although satan was very busy in the persecution of the saints via his agents, the Roman empire, the kingdom of God was indeed everlasting and could never be destroyed. The message was given in symbols and encouraged Christians to remain faithful regardless of the severity of the opposition and persecution. The book gives assurance that, in every spiritual and moral conflict for all time, Christ gives victory to those who are steadfast.