

Upcoming Events

Meet Up Open Bible Study:

For study subject and location: see church website

Welcome and Thanks

Speaker this morning
Kalvin Johns
from Clairemont Mesa

New Address

Sandra Jones
85170 Corte del Roble
Coachella, CA. 92236

January Birthdays

14 Juanita Small

January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

Indio Informer

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Note: this is the first issue of the 32nd year this bulletin has been published. It was begun by Bill Brown.

The Value of Time

By Ron Bartanen

Every turn of a calendar-page and every tick of a clock tells us that what has passed we will never undo, and we are responsible for what we have now. I have heard time described as “a section cut from the great circle of eternity.” We should view time as a priceless gift from God. As we soon go into the New Year of 2021, we should remind ourselves of time’s value. Once past, it can never be retrieved. It is ours now, but whether it will be ours one moment from now is in God’s hands. We have no binding claim upon time.

The apostle Paul spoke of the value of time when he spoke of “*redeeming the time, because the days are evil*” (Ephesians 5:16). Time is not just the accumulation of seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years, but everything that time offers to us, including opportunities and privileges, and Paul, by inspiration, urges us to redeem such. Paul uses the language of the marketplace. In the days, and even weeks, prior to Christmas, shoppers have been fervently in search of bargains, taking advantage of sales in stores and online, searching for best buys. Should we be any less fervent in the pursuit of spiritual blessings that God has graciously made available to us?

One opportunity that is overlooked by too many is the most valuable of all—the opportunity time offers us for salvation. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 6:2, reminds us, “*Now is the accepted time: behold, now is the day of salvation.*” Here is truly the “best buy” of all—salvation, a gift already paid for with the blood of Christ,

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)

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as Peter reminds Christians: of the fact that we are redeemed (purchased) *“with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot”* (1 Peter 1:18-19).

The opportunity of salvation is ours as God’s gift to man, but the acceptance of this gift rests with us. As Paul said, *“Now is the accepted time...day of salvation,”* but multitudes pass by this priceless gift as they seek the pleasures and treasures that will one day be no more. May all of us be reminded, *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides forever”* (1 John 2:16-17). As we conclude the present year, and enter into the New Year, may we accept the gift that abides forever, “redeeming the time.”

Persistence By Ed Wittlif

"The secret is not to give up hope. It's very hard not to because if you are doing something worth-while I think that you will be pushed to the brink of hopelessness before you come through the other side." (George Lucas)

There are times in my walk with God that I have felt like throwing in the towel and giving up. I have struggled with the same temptation and given in and sinned. When the light at the end of the tunnel cannot be seen, why not just quit? There were times that I felt it was hopeless. I would never change.

I have learned that the feeling of hopelessness comes from viewing God primarily as a judge. That has changed over the years. I have found that I cannot leave God's word alone. I had a hunger for reading His word that persisted even when I wanted to give up.

One thing that changed the way I thought about God was the parable of the talents. I realized that the one talent man was condemned for not trying (Matthew 25:14-30). The first letter of John also helped me to persist in light of my hopelessness. God desires to forgive me and will if only I will confess my sins to Him (1 John 1:9).

The second chapter of 1 John reminded me that if I sin, then Jesus is my Advocate. This ties back to the simple fact that I must be honest and admit my sin.

My Father wants me to persist in my struggle with sin. The greater my persistence, the easier it becomes. However, if fleshly desires are less of a temptation, then perhaps pride becomes a greater problem.

Paul said, *"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:14). Trust in Jesus and His cleansing blood and in the proven love of the Father. That is what my hope is based on.

Bible Verses About Perseverance for Encouragement Through Hard Times (Compiled and Edited by BibleStudyTools Staff)

Perseverance is vital to growing in our faith, and God wants His people to persevere no matter what happens, so we have to learn how to overcome obstacles, difficulties, trials, and tribulation to experience victory in Christ. We have two choices when faced with hardship - trust in God and keep our vision on Him or quit and abandon hope. God has so much more in store for us and it His plan for us that struggles and hardship become blessings and rewards if we persevere!

May these Bible verses inspire our faith and motivate us to persevere no matter what we face. God promise to be our comfort and *"ever present help in times of trouble"* (Psalm 46:1). God is not done with us yet and He will help us endure!

“Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let’s rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let’s run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12:1

“We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.” James 5:11