

Upcoming Events

Mitch Brown (Ridgecrest) will preach on January 12
Budget preparations for 2020
Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and thank you, Brent Forsyth!

New Beginnings

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” - C.S. Lewis -

*“Although no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.”
-Carl Bard -*

January Birthdays

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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Indio Informer

Vol. 31 No. 1

January 5, 2020

This is the first bulletin of 2020

This bulletin began 31 years ago by preacher Bill Brown!

Genesis and New Beginnings

By Tim Dooley

When I consider the first few chapters of the book of Genesis, I am struck by a couple of profound thoughts I want us to consider as we begin this new year and our chronological reading of the Old Testament.

First, these first few chapters are about new beginnings. The creation of the world, mankind, and all that exists. The beginning of mankind's relationship with God. The renewed beginning after God destroys the world with a flood. The new beginning of Abraham's life and walk with God. How do new beginnings in our lives effect our relationship and walk with Him?

Secondly, consider the patience, love, and righteous judgment of God. He didn't smite Adam and Eve dead in the Garden of Eden. Yes, they suffered consequences for their sins, but God showed them mercy and grace. Cain was shown forgiveness, mercy, and grace for his sin. God was longsuffering in the days before the flood. How has God's patience, love, mercy, and grace blessed our lives?

Lastly, consider how our actions may be causing the spirit of God to strive with us. Think if we are trying to make a name for ourselves or if we are working to allow God to make a name for us. We should seriously consider the righteousness of God. He doesn't want mankind to be "accepting" of sinful lifestyles and behavior. He wants us to do His will and be faithful. *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,*

saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8–9). Be faithful.

In the Morning of Joy

By Dan Jenkins

“We shall not all sleep, but we shall be raised.” Are there any words more comforting than these? We sing about it, and our hearts are filled with comfort. If there is no resurrection, we are of all men most miserable; our lives have been wasted, and we should have lived our lives by the philosophy of *“let us eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we shall die.”* Many have heard the following words and have been blessed every time they sang them.

*When the trumpet shall sound,
And the dead shall arise,
And the splendors immortal
Shall envelop the skies;
When the Angel of Death
Shall no longer destroy,
And the dead shall awaken
In the morning of joy.*

Think of what a great day of joy that will be!

The Joy of Seeing God

The Lord made a remarkable promise in the opening words of the Beatitudes. *“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God”* (Matthew 5:8). Obviously, we all shall see the Son of man who, coming in His glory, will separate the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-32). This is true because God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world by the One He raised from the dead (Acts 17:31). We will all appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). However, the promise of seeing God is reserved for those who are pure in heart. Is it possible that the wicked will never be allowed to see God in all of His majesty?

The Joy of Seeing All the Redeemed

Jesus may have been speaking of the entrance of Gentiles into the kingdom of God when He said, *“Many will come from east and*

west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 8:11), but is there any doubt that all the redeemed will share eternity together? Imagine sitting with those heroes of faith in Hebrews chapter eleven and thousands of other like them. Add to this sitting again with those who shaped our own lives in our journey on this earth.

The Joy of Seeing Jesus

Can you imagine seeing the One who loved us before we ever lived; the One who loved us and gave Himself for us while we were sinners! Perhaps we might see those beautiful marks of love in His hands and in His side. We are His bride, and He awaits our coming.

O the bliss of that morn, in the morning of joy!

The Power of Baptism

By Rob Albright

The subject of baptism is often misunderstood. We know it is an important subject because Peter tells us baptism saves (1 Peter 3:21). It is not the water that saves, but it is our obedient faith in God’s power that brings the result of salvation (forgiveness of sins). Despite the false theology of today, the Bible teaches us that baptism is essential for one to be saved.

Yes, we must recognize our sinful condition – die to it – and begin the new life in Christ. Paul explains how this new life comes about in Romans 6:3-5. Baptism is at the beginning of our commitment to Christ. What follows after baptism is spiritual growth and development, but salvation comes after one is baptized – not before.

Baptism is the place God goes to work and remits sin. In baptism we are cleansed of our sin (Colossians 2:12-13; Acts 22:16) and brought into a spiritual union with Jesus (Romans 3:5). Think about it: Salvation (2 Timothy 2:10); No condemnation (Romans 8:1); All spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3) - All found after one is baptized into Christ.

Do we believe God has the power to do what He says? (Mark 16:16).