

Upcoming Events

Ladies Bible Class: Today at 4:00 p.m.
Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Wise Actions

“You, therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness.”

2 Peter 3:17

“Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise.” Ephesians 5:15

March Birthdays

8 Drina Zamarripa. 18 Buddy Cashion
28 Sandra Jones 30 Barrett Hoffman

March Anniversaries

6 Harold & Dortha Gentry

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)

Indio Informer

Vol. 31 No. 11

March 15, 2020

Setting Sail on the Sea of Eternity

(“My Departure Is at Hand”)

Mike Johnson

In II Timothy 4:6, while in a Roman prison near the end of his life, Paul wrote, *“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.”*

The Greek word (*analsis*), which is translated “departure,” occurs only here in the New Testament. Paul uses the word here as a metaphor for death, and Greek scholars tell us that it refers to the act of releasing a boat from its moorings (Thayer). Picture a boat tied to a dock. It moves up and down and back and forth; the rope becomes tight and then loose. The boat strains to set itself free from the pier. Finally, its owner unties the vessel, and it departs from the dock.

Paul describes living here upon this earth as, in a sense, tied to a dock. The time would soon come for the untying of the “rope,” and he would set sail on the seas of eternity. His death would be a release.

Consider the way Peter spoke of his death. After saying that he must shortly leave his “tent,” (i.e., die) he said, in 2 Peter 1:15, *“Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease”* (NASB “departure”). The word translated decease (exodus) is the same word used by Luke (Lk. 9:31) in his account of the transfiguration. Luke points out that when Jesus spoke to Moses and Elijah, He spoke of his “decease” (NKJV), which would happen in Jerusalem. Various other translations use the word “departure.” Interestingly, Hebrews 11:22 says Joseph spoke of the children of Israel “departing” from Egypt to go to the Promised Land. This passage has the third use of the Greek term. The children of Israel would “depart” on a literal journey.

Sometimes we refer euphemistically to a person who has died as one who has “departed.” Indeed, death is not the end; it is merely a “departure” from this life. When a person dies, his spirit leaves his body (Jas. 2:26), and it departs to another place.

Comfort exists due to knowing that death is a departure. We mourn when loved ones pass away as we know we will miss them. Jesus even wept on such an occasion (Jn. 11:35). However, the person who is a faithful Christian is merely going to another place, which is “far better” (Phil. 1:23). Indeed, death is not the end

In II Timothy 4:7-8, Paul noted that he had fought a good fight, he had finished his course, and he had kept the faith. Because of this, he could look forward to his departure, anticipating a crown of righteousness, which awaited him. He pointed out he had a desire to depart and to be with Christ (Phil. 1:23). If we faithfully serve God, we also can favorably anticipate our “departure.” Paul pointed out that this crown would not be for him only but is also for all those who love His appearing.

There will be a time when we will be “untied from the dock.” Will we be ready?

Maintaining Balance

By Johnny Hester

In a recent phone conversation with a brother in Christ whom I have never met in person, I was asked to sum up my “philosophy of ministry.” After expressing my confidence in the authoritative, infallible nature of the Word of God I went on to explain that in matters of judgment and expedience I try to maintain a balance that is not unduly and doggedly devoted to my own long-held opinions nor that is eager to embrace something different simply for the sake of change. In hindsight I probably could and should have expressed myself more succinctly, but that is often my self-assessment upon further reflection upon my “instant responses.” One thing I did attempt to convey is that I have not attained perfection in that stated aim of being balanced.

Back in 2012 the aerialist/tightrope-walker Nik Wallenda had millions of television viewers across the globe sitting on the edge

of our seats as we watched him walk across the mighty Niagara Falls on a narrow strand of material. Following the spectacular event an interviewer questioned the daredevil about his “perfect balance.” Wallenda’s response is worthy of note and reflection. He said: “There is no such thing as perfect balance, only constant correction.”

That is a truth I want to remember regarding my own beliefs and positions. The Word of God is inerrant, and I will continue to accept it as such without question. In matters God has not specifically addressed in his Word, I will pray for wisdom and consider with an open mind the thoughts of godly men and women who have pondered the same concerns.

When I achieve perfect balance, I will let you know, but until then I want to remain humble enough to accept constant correction as needed.

Just the Right Response

By Charlie Gamble

Many times, we would have a small group get together for a lunch Bible study at work. We always invited others to sit in with us. One individual was particularly rude in his rejection. One day he decided to walk through the center of the group on his way back from the cafeteria. “Stupid (expletive deleted)!, he muttered so everyone could hear. One of our members spoke up and asked him what he was so angry about. “I’m not (expletive) angry,” he replied. “Well you sure come across that way and I believe that I know why,” said our member. “We have something that you don’t have.”

That drew more expletive animosity along with a sneering, “What could you possibly have that I don’t?”

“Peace,” said our member. There was silence and a perplexed look that came over him. He had been unmasked and revealed to all. I have never forgotten that moment. When the temptation may have been to reply with a harsh answer, my friend was meek. It stunned the aggressor. Last week I preached about Matthew 5:5 and I, again, recalled the power of a meek reply.