

Reminders

Gospel Meeting starts today!
Please welcome Brent and Vicki Willey!

Business meeting, next Sunday, October 18 at 4:30 p.m.

Quotations from C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity"

"...it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing."

"Die before you die, there is no chance after."

"No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good."

October Birthdays

1 Brandon Taylor	25 Christina Bruni
3 Betty Heitmeyer	28 Allan Brown

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

Church of Christ
81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

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Faith...

Why I Believe

By Brent Willey (Adapted)

The author of the book of Hebrews defined "faith" with these words: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11.1). The words "assurance" and "conviction" indicate absolute confidence!

It was the late, C. S. Lewis, the renowned British defender of the faith, who astutely said, "I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

Lewis was a great apologist (defender) of Christianity. His little book *Mere Christianity* is still a classic in its field and should be required reading for every Christian. But I wish intellectually honest skeptics would take the time to read it as well. The quotation above is one of my favorites, and I want to tell you why.

First, everyone who believes has his own reasons for believing in the existence of God, and in His Son, Jesus Christ. Some believe because they can't remember when they never believed and it is as natural as breathing. Others believe because it seems morally wrong not to believe. Some others may believe because their parents handed down their faith to them. None of these are necessarily bad reasons for believing. And for many us, their simple trust puts us to shame when we find ourselves needing more reasons to believe in God's existence.

Second, atheism answers no questions, and just doesn't make sense. Of course, they would argue that since there is no God, any arguments about cause and effect, the design that is inherently seen in the universe, aesthetics and the source of beauty, and the generally accepted moral values that are practiced in most cultures are all considered utter nonsense. Amazingly, however, evolution fails to answer even the most basic questions concerning the origin of life, let alone sufficient to explain the above points.

Third, faith in God and His Son satisfies the longing of man for meaning in a somewhat meaningless world. Because of our faith in God, most of our questions are answered, such as: Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? Rule out God and morality is nothing more than a set of man-made rules for effective social interaction. Anything goes regardless if one is in the majority or minority. With faith in God, we can look death squarely in the face and know that it is not the victor. As Lewis says: because of our faith in Christianity we can see everything else. Or, in short, life makes sense.

What Can We Do to Strengthen Our Faith

By Leonard Wilson

Read the Bible every day. This is the way God speaks to us. Just reading the words is not enough. We need to study, meditate, and research the Scriptures (Isaiah 34:16).

Pray to God every day. This is the way we speak to God. We should pray for ourselves, that we may have a Christ-like attitude, and thank God for the blessings we receive. We should pray for those who have mistreated us. We should pray for the church, for the elders, the preacher, and all of the membership. And pray for the lost (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Memorize the books of the Bible. This may not be necessary to go to heaven, but it will help strengthen our faith. Any person who claims to be a student of the Bible should memorize the books of the Bible and classify them (Psalm 119:11).

Study the plan of salvation. Learn book, chapter, and verse of the Scriptures on hearing about Christ, believing that Christ is the Son of God (John 8:24), confessing Christ before men (Matthew 10:32), repenting of our sins (Luke 13:3-5), and being baptized into Christ for the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16). We should memorize these Scriptures, or at least be able to find them in our Bibles.

Learn sound doctrine (Titus 2:10). We need to know where the book, chapter, and verses are that teach us about the Lord's supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-29); about giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2); about singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), about the oneness of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23); and the qualifications of elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) and deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13).

Attend every service of the church. There may be an occasion when we just can't be present for a church service, but if we really want to be present to worship God and enjoy the fellowship of our brethren, most of us can be there 99.9 percent of the time (Hebrews 10:25).

Participate in the activities of the church. Be as active and helpful as you have the ability to do so (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Teach someone the gospel plan of salvation. We should not be afraid to talk to someone about their soul. We have the truth, and we need to share it with others. Our friends and relatives are going to be eternally in one of two places; let us try to take them to heaven with us (2 Timothy 2:2; Matthew 7:13-14).

Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

They are known as the forty martyrs of Sebaste. In the famed Twelfth Legion of Rome's imperial army there were forty soldiers who professed faith in Jesus Christ. One day their captain informed them that Emperor Licinius had sent out an edict commanding all soldiers to offer a sacrifice to pagan gods.

These Christian warriors said, "You can have our armor and even our bodies, but our hearts' allegiance belongs to Jesus Christ."

Because of their stance they were marched onto a frozen lake in the midwinter of 320 A.D. and stripped of their clothes. At any time they could renounce Christ and be spared from death. Instead, they huddled close together and sang their song of victory, "Forty martyrs for Christ." That freezing night saw thirty-nine men fall to their icy graves. When there was but one man left he stumbled to the shore and renounced Christ. The officer in charge of guarding these men had secretly come to believe in Christ. He then replaced the man who had broken rank and walked out onto the ice. He threw off his clothes and confessed his faith in Christ. At sunrise the Roman soldiers found forty men who gave their all for the cause of Christ. - *Good News Is for Sharing*, Leighton Ford, 1977, p. 16