

Please welcome...

Preaching for us today is **Nate Sutton**, a member of the North Clairemont church in the San Diego area; he is accompanied by his wife, **Brittney**. Thank them for helping us out!

### Christians' Consolation

*“And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, ‘Write, ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’” ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.’”* - Revelation 14:13 -

*“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”*  
- Revelation 21:4 -

### September Birthdays

3 Wendy Cortes	15 Marcos Perales	30 Kurt Hoffman
11 Marie Burruss	16 Jim Burruss	30 Dortha Gentry

(Note: if anyone is “missed” here, let Jim know)

#### 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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# Indio Informer

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## Sobering “ponderings”...

### Musings in a Graveyard

By Forrest D. Moyer (1929 – 1997)

A cemetery is a sobering place to wander. Sometimes it is better to saunter there and have fellowship with the dead than to walk in the companionship of the living. You see, we can sometimes learn more from the silence of the dead than from the speech of the living. I have walked among hallowed monuments and ornate gravestones in luxuriant gardens and read the epitaphs of the wealthy of the earth. I have stumbled among the rocky and weed-grown graves of country folks whose burial sites are all but forgotten. I have read beautifully inscribed words on polished granite. I have deciphered poorly printed messages from handmade stones of clay. But all of these have one thing in common whether among the rich in their stately tombs or the poor in their pine boxes: death is no respecter of persons. It comes to all.

I am impressed also by the fact that while sometimes the epitaph written may well describe the person beneath, that the destiny of the dead is not determined by the beautiful words written on the tombs. That person’s own acceptance or rejection of the truth will determine his or her destiny. God will be the judge in all cases, and what man writes will have no bearing before His judgment throne. But epitaphs are interesting to say the least.

In the Bible there are many epitaphs. To me a strange but interesting and instructive one is found in 2 Chronicles 21:20. It is spoken concerning Jehoram the king of Judah who died at the age of forty. *“He departed without being desired.”* Now Jehoram had a wonderful opportunity to be a truly great king. His father was

Jehoshaphat, one of the best kings ever to rule over Judah. *“He did right in the sight of the Lord.”* But Jehoram did not follow in his father’s footsteps. He was a cruel man and of all the men to fear, he is the one to fear the most. He was an idolater. He bowed before a heathen shrine and forced others to do so also.

However, if there is any one thing we learn from reading the Old Testament, it is that God rules in the kingdoms of men. And God would not tolerate an ungodly king like Jehoram. *“So after all this the Lord smote him in his bowels with an incurable sickness. Now it came about in the course of time, at the end of two years, that his bowels came out because of the sickness and he died in great pain”* (2 Chron. 21:18-19). When he died, there were no mourners in Judah. *“He departed without being desired.”* What a sad epitaph!

But what about your epitaph and mine? Could it be that mine could be just as sad? What is our legacy? I wonder who will be in Heaven because of me? Or because of you? Will you be able to look around in Heaven and shake hands with people whom you led to Christ? What about your life? When you die, will people say, *“We sorely miss him or her. Theirs was such a beautiful and useful life.”*

Someday, somewhere, someone will be walking in a cemetery. They will come upon a stone that will say, *“Forrest D. Moyer.”* I don’t know what other words my surviving family may choose to write on my stone.\* But one thing is for sure. God will write the final epitaph with His finger and the sands of time will never remove it. My life now will determine what God will write. *“Oh, Great and Sovereign God; help me to walk in your way now that I may live with You forever!”* - Forrest D. Moyer (1989) -

\*On the grave marker of Forrest D. Moyer are the words from 1 Timothy 1:5: *“love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith.”*

## What Will The Marker Say

By Howell Ferguson, Bells, Tennessee

Everyone wants to be remembered. But how do we want to be remembered? What would you want your epitaph to say? Consider some possible epitaphs that could be said of the following Bible characters:

**Jesus** – *“the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matthew 16:16).

**Dorcas** – *“full of good works and charitable deeds”* (Acts 9:36).

**Abraham** – *“the friend of God”* (James 2:23).

**Enoch** – *“and Enoch walked with God”* (Genesis 5:24).

**David** – *“a man after [God’s] own heart”* (Acts 13:22).

**Paul** – *“for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”* (Philippians 1:21).

But consider the following evil people and how their epitaphs might read:

**Judas Iscariot** – *“Judas, which betrayed Him”* (Matthew 26:25).

**Rich fool** – *“Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee”* (Luke 12:20).

**Rich man** – *“Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented”* (Luke 16:25).

**Demas** – *“Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world”* (2 Timothy 4:10).

How we live will long out-live how long we lived. Like Abel, we being dead will yet speak. Our epitaphs will be determined by what we do or do not do. What will our epitaph say?

***“He being dead yet speaketh”***

Hebrews 11:4