

Upcoming Events

UPCOMING FALL GOSPEL MEETING

Starts Next Sunday, October 24-27

Les Cunningham

WORK DAY!

Preparation for Gospel Meeting

Saturday, October 23, 9:00 a.m.

John 1:46

*“Can anything good come out of
Nazareth?”*

“Come and see!”

Meet Up Class

Monday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m.

77682 Country Club Drive A-2

Palm Desert

October Birthdays

28 Allan Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:

Jack Critchfield

Church of Christ

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-Sobering Thoughts-

What Will Be Said About Me?

By Mike Johnson

Epitaphs (defined as “a commemorative inscription on a tomb or mortuary monument) have always been of interest to me. They often depict people’s attitudes about life after death. They may say something kind about a person who has died, perhaps pointing out how sorely all will miss the deceased. They may express something about hope beyond the grave or some other Biblical concept. In California, for example, a man put on his wife’s headstone, “A sense of loss is mine to bear/But hers a wondrous gain” (Compare to Philippians 1:21).

Epitaphs can vary in tone. Consider this rather chilling message on a stone in California. **“Remember friend, as you pass by; as you are now, so once was I. As I am now, soon you will be; so prepare for death and follow me.”** Later someone added a reply: **“To follow you, I’m not content until I know which way you went!”** A member of a famous rock group in the ’70s said that their philosophy was to “Live fast, die young, and leave a good corpse.” Would you want this as your epitaph? Sadly, these words describe the philosophy of many.

The Bible summarizes the life and character of some in a few words. For example, the Scriptures say of Ahab that he *“did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him”* (I Kings 16:33). In contrast, Hananiah, a ruler in Jerusalem after the return from captivity, is spoken of positively. Nehemiah 7:2 says of him *“... for he was a faithful man and feared God above many.”* These are just a few words, but they say much. Acts 11:24 describes Barnabas as a

“good man.” It would be incorrect to describe many today as even a “good person.” Consider a statement Peter made about Jesus in Acts 10:38. He said that *He “went about doing good.”* Many people are like this today as their lives are full of good deeds toward others.

What is accurately said about us after we die is undoubtedly significant. For example, Paul, near the end of his life, wrote II Timothy. In II Timothy 4:7, he said, *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”* There is no intent for this statement to be Paul’s epitaph, but it could have been. On another occasion, in Philippians 1:21, he said, *“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”* Perhaps after we die, people can accurately express these ideas about us: “He fought a good fight, he finished his course, and he kept the faith,” or “For her to live was Christ, to die was gain.” If these few words can accurately be said, it will mean that we have died as faithful children of God.

I Don’t Have Anything to Give to God

By Dan Jenkins

It is hard to imagine anyone who has faith in God who has not had those moments when they begin to reflect about all that God has done for them and wonder how they could be so blessed. In those sobering moments of reflection, we look at ourselves and think of how many times we have not measured up to the high spiritual aspirations we set for ourselves. Who has not thought, “What does God see in me, and how can I ever repay Him for what He has done?”

If we have ever had such thoughts, just remember that we are not the first. The Psalmist asked, *“What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me”* (Psalms 116:12)? Hundreds of years later Micah asked, *“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow before the High God”* (Micah 6:6)?

What shall I give to Him? He already owns the world! Did He not say, *“For every beast of the forest is Mine and the cattle on a*

thousand hills. I know all the bird of the mountains and the wild beasts of the field are Mine”? All the gold, silver and jewels are already His. What can I give to Him?

Perhaps, the answer is found in Paul’s letter to Rome. The members there had escaped from the bondage of paganism and false religion. Paul reminded them of the mercy of God. Based upon this mercy, he appealed to them to offer the only sacrifice we have to give to Him which is acceptable. *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service”* (Romans 12:1).

We do have something to give to God! It is worth more than all the treasures of this earth. Jesus described its worth when He said, *“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”* (Matthew 16:26). Our amazing God has given us the right to decide how to use our souls, and the only choice to be made is to give it to Him! We do not bring to Him the resplendent jewels He already owns, nor the decaying carcass of dead animals—we bring Him ourselves as a living sacrifice.

Look at Romans 12 again. That sacrifice is holy. That sacrifice is acceptable. That sacrifice is reasonable. That sacrifice is service to Him.

Now, here is the question each should consider. Have we ever reflected about what we could possibly have to give to God? Here’s an even more important one. Have we brought to Him the only gift worth more than all the world? Have we given our life to Him as a holy sacrifice of service?

Something I can do...

Invite at least one person to our upcoming gospel meeting!

Just say... “Come and see!”