

Upcoming Events

Meet Up Class

Thursday, December 23 at 7:00 p.m.
28561 Sunnyslope St.
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

Self-Examination

“But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting, but to himself alone, and not to another.” Galatians 6:4

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown
27 Sue Tanner 31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff 18 Jim & Marie Burruss

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:

Jack Critchfield

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

(Address Service Requested)

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Self-Examination

Here's Looking at Me

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.” 2 Corinthians 13:5-6

One of the hardest things for us to do is to look at ourselves honestly. We'd like to think that we don't have too many faults or bad traits. We seem to have an inborn defense mechanism that prevents us from being completely honest with ourselves which all makes self-improvement that much more difficult. But in the preceding verse, the Bible says that we are to examine ourselves, that's honestly looking at the measure of faith that we possess. It also goes on to say that we should test ourselves, give ourselves spiritual challenges which will make us grow and become spiritually stronger. Why is this important? Because Jesus Christ is a part of us and we're to live for Him every day. Just as the athlete in the ball game or the race, we want to play by the rules and don't want to be disqualified from the game (1 Corinthians 9:27). Living a good, busy, faithful, trusting, loving, Christian life will keep us in the running with the Good Lord right by our side. Every day we should look into the mirror of God's Word, concentrating on our own personal ability (or inability) to look at ourselves and see ourselves just as God sees us.

Restoring Compassion

By Al Behel

It's easy to develop compassion fatigue. There are so many needs and requests for assistance. While we can't relieve all the suffering in the world, we can be the hands of Jesus to respond to as many hurting people as possible. Most of us would not hesitate to help good friends or family but may take pause when challenged to help strangers.

When Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, he identified four kinds of people. In the story a man was robbed and left to die beside the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Two very religious men came by, a priest and Levite, and seeing the injured man walked by on the opposite side of the road. Finally, a Samaritan, who was hated by the Jews, came by. Seeing the man he stopped, provided medical treatment, and took him to an inn to be cared for. He promised to pay any additional charge when he returned. This story tells us there are people who hurt others, people who are hurting, people who help people, and people who ignore the needs of others. Ask ourselves...Which kind of person am I? Am I a compassionate person?

For Example...

By John M. Buttrey II

The importance of a good example is something we all understand. In fact, we all have someone, in some area of our life, whom we look to as an example. Yet, have we considered the possibility that someone may be looking to us as an example?

Believe it or not, no matter who we are, we are an example to someone. It might be a co-worker, a child, a friend, a spouse, a brother, or sister in Christ, or even a stranger. Someone is always watching us.

I was reminded of this recently while waiting in line to order a pizza. The lady in front of me turned around and said to me, "You have a child or grandchild at the elementary school. I see you all the time pushing the stroller and picking her up." I never noticed her, but she saw and later recognized me. How we conduct ourselves is always of great importance, no matter where we may be.

The apostle Paul wrote often about examples, whether his own, or that of others (1 Cor. 4:16; 10:11; 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Thess. 1:7; 2 Thess. 3:7, 9; 1 Tim. 1:16; 4:12; Titus 2:7). I like his inspired instruction to Titus: "***In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech, which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.***" Titus 2:7-8 (Emphasis Mine).

The apostle Peter also wrote of example. In his first New Testament epistle, he wrote of the example of Jesus Christ. "***For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.***" 1 Peter 2:21-23 (Emphasis Mine).

Peter illustrates that the example of Jesus, in His suffering, gives us an example for our periods of suffering and trial in life. There are valuable lessons we can learn by simply studying His example. In the next chapter of this same letter, Peter again writes of example. "***In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.***" 1 Peter 3:1-2 (Emphasis Mine)

The word example is not used here, but it is the underlying subject of importance. In this example, Peter writes of the importance of example for wives who have unbelieving husbands. He encourages these women to conduct themselves properly because their good example might win their husbands to the Lord.

Jesus also spoke of example. On the familiar occasion when He washed the feet of the disciples, Jesus told them, "***For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you***" (John 13:15). All these examples of examples, and their importance considered, what kind of example are we presenting? What does our example say about the importance of service, attendance, Bible study, service, and so on? Never forget, someone somewhere is learning from our example. Make sure the lessons they are learning are consistent with being a child of God.