

Upcoming Events

Meet Up Class

Thursday, December 30 at 7:00 p.m.
28561 Sunnyslope St.
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff 18 Jim & Marie Burruss

January Birthdays

14 Juanita Small

January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

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Giving

Christ Gave Himself for Me!

Galatians 2:20
By Mark N. Posey

The ancient Persians invented Crucifixion c.300-400 B.C. It is probably the most painful death ever created by humans. The English word “excruciating” is derived from crucifixion, acknowledging it as a form of slow, unbearable suffering. Paul spoke of crucifixion many times in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 1:18,21,23). The cross is the central event in the history of time!

1. **Christ gave His BACK to be scourged for me** (John 19:1). The brutal act of scourging had three purposes. First, used to beat the prisoner as a form of punishment. Second, used to extract a confession from the prisoner. Finally, in cases of crucifixion used to weaken the victim so he would die more quickly on the cross. Historically, it was when a person was whipped as punishment.
2. **Christ gave His HEAD to wear a crown of thorns for me** (John 19:2). While a crown of thorns was exceedingly painful, it was more about mockery than it was about pain. The Roman soldiers used a symbol of royalty and turned it into something painful and degrading. The thorn plant used to make the “crown of thorns” which was placed upon the head of Jesus is believed to be a plant called the “Euphorbia mili.”
3. **Christ gave His FACE to be slapped for me** (John 19:3). Isaiah foretold of Christ being slapped and His beard hairs pulled

Regular Meeting Times

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

Preacher:
Jack Critchfield

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(Address Service Requested)

Following the Pattern in the New Year

By Joe Slater

out of His face (Isaiah 50:6). Christ taught, “turn the other cheek,” and He practiced perfectly what He preached! (John 18:19-34).

4. **Christ gave His SHOULDERS to carry the cross for me** (John 19:17). He carried the instrument of his punishment. The cross, which weighed 300-400 pounds or more, would have been too heavy for anyone to carry or drag any distance. Even in His weakened condition, Jesus brought it as far as He could. Each step He took, He took for us!

5. **Christ gave His HANDS & FEET to be nailed for me** (Psalm 22:16). In 1968, scientists discovered the remains of a man crucified in Jesus' era. The victim was nailed to the cross in a sitting position, both legs over sideways, with the nail penetrating the sides of both feet just below the heel. The arms were stretched out, each stabbed by a nail in the forearm. On Friday, Jesus hung on the cross for six hours (9 AM—3 PM).

6. **Christ gave His BODY to be crucified for me** (1 Peter 2:24). As Jesus hung on the cross, the weight of His body pulled down on the diaphragm and the air moved into His lungs and remained there. He had to push up on His nailed feet (causing more pain) to exhale. To speak, air must pass over the vocal cords during exhalation. The Gospels note that Jesus spoke seven times from the cross. It is amazing that despite His pain, He pushed up to say, “*Forgive them*” (Luke 23:34). He loved until the end!

7. **Christ gave His SIDE to be stabbed for me** (John 19:34). A soldier pierced Jesus' side to assure that He was dead—“*blood and water came out*” (John 19:34), referring to the watery fluid surrounding the heart & lungs. This was a cruel act by a cruel man.

The Cross of Christ demonstrates the greatest act of love known to man by the greatest being in existence—GOD! The Cross of Christ is the great act of God's grace. God gave His only begotten Son for undeserving sinners. May we, as in the words of Paul, NOT receive this grace in vain (2 Corinthians 6:1); but appropriate this wonderful gift to our soul in obedience!

What do you suppose God's people were doing on New Year's Day roughly 3500 years ago? Would you believe they were putting up the tabernacle? “*On the first day of the first month, you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting*” (Exodus 40:1). “*And it came to pass in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was raised up*” (Exodus 40:17).

Earlier in Exodus (chapters 25-31) God had given Moses explicit and detailed instructions about the tabernacle and all its furnishings, beginning with this exhortation: “*According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so shall you make it*” (Exodus 25:9). The Lord repeated this command several times as He specified the dimensions, materials, design, etc., of the tabernacle and its furnishings. “*And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain*” (Exodus 25:40). “*And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain*” (Exodus 26:30). “*As it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make it*” (Exodus 27:8).

Moses and the Israelites took God seriously! “*Thus, Moses did; according to all that the Lord had commanded him, so he did*” (Exodus 40:16).

The tabernacle and things associated with it were a shadow of the better things Jesus Christ established in the New Covenant. The Hebrews writer taught that we ought to be even more diligent to be faithful in the New Covenant than Moses and the Israelites were in the Old Covenant (Hebrews 2:1-4; 10:28-31).

In this new year, let us renew our determination to follow God's pattern set forth in the New Testament!