Upcoming Events

Meet Up Class

Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. 28561 Sunnyslope St. Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

Visiting Needs...

"I was sick, and you visited Me...".
Matthew 25:36

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown27 Sue Tanner31 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. *Church of Christ* 81-377 Ave 46 Indio, CA 92201 (760) 342-1859

Preacher: Jack Critchfield

(Address Service Requested)

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Blessings and COVID-19

By Joseph D. Chase

These days seem filled with trouble. Job said, "Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). We have seen COVID-19 take the lives and good health away from loved ones and friends. Many homes and much property were destroyed by wildfires. We have seen cities across our nation ravaged by violence. We have even witnessed the hallowed halls of our nations capital building attacked by rioters. These things have not been seen in our country in our lifetimes.

Many people are saying that our world is coming to an end and the Day of Judgment is soon to come. I don't know if that is true because the Bible says, "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only" (Matthew 24:36). Certainly, we all should be using these dreary and unsettling days to warn men of the day when the Lord will judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:31).

However, don't let your heart be troubled for, "he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). God knows how to rescue the godly from trials (2 Peter 2:9). Jesus still loves us and is providing His grace to all who will come to Him. It is time for us all to lean fully upon our faith in the Lord, that in every hardship there is a blessing. "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12).

Let us all lift our heads, hearts and voices in that old hymn by J.P. Webster,

To our bountiful Father above, We will offer our tribute of praise For the glorious gift of His love And the blessings that hallow our days. And let us pray as the Psalmist did, "Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil." (Psalm 90:13-15).

God Is Just & Impartial

Mike Johnson

The Bible teaches that God is impartial. Psalm 89:14 says, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face." In Acts 10:34, Peter told Cornelius, "...In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality."

Those who make decisions today may not always be impartial. In a court of law, for example, justice does not always prevail, and partialities sometimes exist. A guilty person can set free, and an innocent person can go to jail. Even in sporting events, an official may not always make the right call. God, in contrast, is always fair and impartial, and we know His decisions are always correct. Consider various ways we can see God fairness:

- 1. **There is one Savior for everyone.** In John 14:6, Jesus said, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." No one, no matter how religious or moral, can expect salvation except through Jesus Christ.
- 2. **There is one plan of salvation.** There is not one plan of salvation for one person and a different way of salvation for someone else; eternal life will be on the same terms. We all must believe (Jn. 3:16), repent (Acts 17:30-31), confess Christ (Rom. 10:10), and be baptized (Acts 2:38), and then we must remain faithful (Rev. 2:10).
- 3. Everyone must face the Judgment. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."
- 4. **God desires the salvation of all.** 2 Peter 3:9 says God is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

- 5. **There is one authority overall.** The rule is the "doctrine of Christ." 2 John 9 says, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son."
- 6. **Only one standard of judgment exists.** Romans 2:16 says that God will judge us by Jesus Christ according to the gospel. We also know that God will render judgment according to the deeds of each person (Rom. 2:6).

God is truly fair and impartial, and for that, we can be thankful!

The Echo



"I spoke a word in anger To one who was my friend, Like a knife it cut him deeply, A wound that was hard to mend. That word, so thoughtlessly uttered, I would we could both forget, But its echo lives and memory gives The recollection yet. How many hearts are broken, How many friends are lost By some unkind word spoken Before we count the cost! But a word or deed of kindness Will repay a hundredfold. For it echoes again in the hearts of men And carries a joy untold."

C.A. Lufburrow