

Upcoming Events

Meet Up Class

Thursday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m.
28561 Sunnyslope St.
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

Business Meeting

January 9 at 3:30 p.m.

Check this out!

Article by Jack Critchfield under
Biblethoughts.blog
“THE WISDOM OF THE WISE”

January Birthdays

14 Juanita Small

January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

Indio Informer

Vol. 33 No. 1

January 2, 2022

New Year's Thoughts

Finishing the Race and Receiving the Crown

By Dan Jenkins

The Bible uses many figures of speech to describe our journey to heaven. The parables of Jesus often take ordinary events to illustrate the nature of the kingdom and the part each of us plays. We are workers in the vineyard, sowers of the seed, merchants seeking a pearl of great price and many others. The writers of the New Testament add another one which the world understands. The Olympic games which involved running originated in ancient Greece. They vividly remind us that like those participants in those races each of us is a spiritual athlete running in our spiritual race.



The writer of Hebrews describes the practice used by runners of putting weights on their feet as they prepared for their race. When those weights were removed, muscles had been strengthened and the freedom made their feet seem so light and ready to run.

I remember that pair of skates I received at Christmas. They were not lace-up boots like we have today but had straps and clamps to attach them to ordinary shoes. I specifically remember how light my feet seemed when I unclamped the heavy skates from my feet. I felt like I could jump higher and run faster than I had ever done. With those weights removed, I knew I could do things better than I had ever done before.

Read these words from God. **“Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”** (Hebrews 12:1). As we run our race, there are many weights, not necessarily sinful acts, which can hinder us. Jesus describes three things which can so

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)

easily keep us from reaching spiritual maturity—cares, riches, and pleasure (Luke 8:14). Are these weights in our life which need to be set aside as we run the race?

The Bible adds another aspect to the race we are running. ***“And if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules”*** (2 Timothy 2:5). Think of how races involve measured distances and specific lanes clearly marked in races you have seen. We are not at liberty to set the rules or run outside our lanes. There is a Judge who will determine how lawfully we run.

At the end of those ancient races, “medals” were given. Garland wreaths were placed on the heads of the winners. ***“Everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown”*** (1 Corinthians 9:24). Paul said that having finished the race he awaited the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8). Wreaths will wither, but our crown is a crown of life.

How are we doing in our race for the crown? Are there changes we need to make as we run our race?

An Empty Mansion

By Chris Gautney

Sometimes we sing the hymn, *An Empty Mansion*, which is inspired by the passage in John 14. The chorus starts out...*There’s a mansion now empty just waiting for me, at the end of life’s troublesome way... and then finishes with ...and I know that the Savior will welcome me there, at the door of that mansion someday.* To those of us who are Christians, the words are sung in faith and in the hope that we have in Christ. Jesus said there were many mansions in His father’s house, that he was going to prepare so that one day we might be there with him in all eternity (John 14:1-6).

When I sing this song, I sometimes think about a story my grandfather told me. He had lost his mother when he was only 3 years old and went to live with his oldest sister and her husband. His siblings took turns letting their father come and live with them for a short time then he went on to the next one’s house to stay and then started the cycle over again. One day he was able to move into

a government-subsidized apartment on his own. He went and told everyone to come see his new house. He thought it was the best house he had ever lived in. When the time came that my great-grandfather passed on, my grandfather officiated at the funeral. He ask, “Why do we sit here weeping, dad’s just moved houses and into the best one he’ll ever have.”

We often lose sight of the goal. It’s not what we have here on earth but it’s what we will have in Heaven. That is where we should be laying up our treasures where neither moth nor rust will destroy them (Matthew 6-19-21). Later, in that same chapter in v. 33, Jesus says to seek first the kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things, the necessities of this life, will be added unto you. The Bible never teaches that having wealth is a sin but that the love of it is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10).

We may live in the biggest and finest house that money can buy, but nothing will ever compare to that place that awaits those who are faithful where they will live with the saved and the blest.

Coping in 2022

Excerpts from article by Ronald Bartanen

What will we be facing in this new year? Will it be a year of good health, or of illness? Will there be a stabilizing economy or a stock-market crash? Will there be an increase of unity as a nation or an increase of chaos, looting, burning and physical violence? As individuals, will we learn to cope with life’s illnesses and failures or will we collapse under the stresses of life? We don’t know all the answers to the situations we must face. As our fears mount up, it becomes more and more difficult to cope.

Even those who are people of faith find it difficult to face personal, national and global problems confidently. We need daily to be reminded of the words of Jesus: *“In this world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33).

Our ability to cope begins with faith in Jesus. The apostle Paul wrote, *“We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us”* (Romans 8:37). Are we faithfully following Him? (Revelation 2:10).