

ATTENTION!!

MeetUp Class
Monday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m.
28561 Sunnyslope St.
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

Memory Verse

“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all time handed down to the saints.” Jude 1:3

**For Suggested Lists of Memory Verses
See Jim Burruss**

March Birthdays

18 Buddy Cashion (would have been 97!)
28 Sandra Jones 30 Barrett Hoffman

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Memorizing Scripture

By John M. Buttrey II

A greatly neglected aspect of adult Bible study is the memorization of Scripture. As children, memorization was a critical part of our learning process. We memorized the books of the Bible, the names of the apostles, and various verses of Scripture. Children today still do the same. However, when we became adults, we “put away childish things.” Right? Wrong! Memorizing Scripture is not a childish thing. There is a great value in memorizing Scripture. Throughout the Bible, the value of such is seen in a number of different ways.

To the children of Israel, God expressed the need for memorizing the words He had given to them. In fact, more than just expressing a need for such, God gave them a command to retain His words in their minds:

*“These words, which I am commanding you today, **shall be on your heart.**” Deuteronomy 6:6 (Emphasis Mine)*

God’s word would only be on their heart (mind) as they worked at memorizing and retaining it. One psalmist expressed very well the value of memorizing the Scriptures with these familiar words:

*“Your word I have **treasured in my heart**, that I may not sin against You.” Psalm 119:11 (Emphasis Mine)*

Psalm 119, from which this verse was taken, was itself designed as a memorizing tool for the people of Israel. It is known as an acrostic psalm. Each verse and each section of the psalm relate to the various characters of the Hebrew alphabet. The design is to aid in the memorization of the psalm.

Regular Meeting Times

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

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

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

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher:
Jack Critchfield

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(Address Service Requested)

OUR PRECIOUS BIBLE

By Kenneth E. Thomas

“Our precious Bible, book divine”

It tells of God and the beginning of time

It’s a “light to our pathway, a lamp to our feet”

May we always realize its taste so sweet

It tells where we came from and why we’re here

The possibility of life in that heavenly sphere

It tells of a Savior, the divine Son of God

Who as God/man this earthly pathway trod

Who died and was raised to save us from sin

If only we’ll hear and let Him come in

If by faith we repent and are baptized into Him

We can have that home in the heavenly realm.

(Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:22-38, 40-41, 47)

In treasuring the word of God in his heart, the psalmist was going to memorize the word. Notice the value or purpose for treasuring the word in his heart: He memorized the word so that he would not sin against God. In other words, with the word of God safely secured within his mind, he could call upon it when temptation came his way. You may recall that this is how Jesus overcame the temptations of the devil during His forty days of fasting in the wilderness. With each temptation, Jesus replied, **“It is written”** (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10).

Another interesting example in Scripture, which demonstrates the importance of committing God’s word to memory, is seen in the instructions God gave to Israel for any man who would be king:

*“Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, **he shall write for himself a copy of this law** on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. It shall be with him and **he shall read it all the days of his life**, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes.”*
Deuteronomy 17:18-19 (Emphasis Mine)

There are numerous other examples from God's word that could be cited, all of which demonstrate the importance of memorizing Scripture.

For some reason, as adults, we have become convinced that we can no longer memorize verses from the Bible. I wonder, is it you and I who have done that, or the enemy? Satan would love for us to neglect treasuring the word of God in our hearts. If the word is not present when temptation comes our way, he can enjoy much greater success, while you and I suffer more and more defeat. Hence, Paul tells us to gird our loins with truth (Eph. 6:14).

If we are going to be able to *“contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints”* (Jude 3), if we are going to be equipped to *“preach the word in season and out of season”* (2 Tim. 4:2), if the church is going to be a solid pillar and support of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15), we must work at memorizing the word of God.

Why Memorize Scripture?

We’ve all experienced fear whenever an opportunity arose to share the gospel. Bible memorization can help alleviate that fear. The idea of memorization is inherent in 1 Peter 3:15, *“But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect.”* We know what is right, but could we prove it to others? Memorization is a great way to build our confidence in directing others through the scriptures as we show them the plan of God’s Salvation.

David, in Psalms 119 shares his reverence for God’s word and some of the benefits of having it in our memory.