

Greatest Commandments

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:36-39

Unless there is a special request...

Due to circumstances, this class is temporarily suspended

“Foundation Lessons” Class

Wednesdays 3:30 p.m. at the church building

Will Resume Later

August Birthdays

12 Debbie Hoffman

16 Nick Hoffman

Regular Meeting Times

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

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

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

Website:

indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher: Vacant

Church of Christ

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

(Address Service Requested)

Indio Informer

Vol. 34 No. 34

August 20, 2023

Taking Inventory

By Joe Slater

Businesses may take inventory at the first of the year for tax purposes or to see if the company was profitable last year. What about you and me? How did we do last year? What adjustments do we need to make? Several matters call for an inventory:

1. Bible study (not just reading, but study). Both public and private study instill God’s word into our hearts. We ought to be known as walking Bibles! It can be so, but not without serious Bible study.

2. Prayer. *“You do not have because you do not ask”* (James 4:3). *“Pray without ceasing”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Need we say more?

3. Attendance. Satan has used the pandemic to condition us into thinking in-person attendance is a mere option. For the truly ill, watching the service on an electronic device is helpful. I know that by experience! Nevertheless, when healthy, active people simply choose not to show up, Scripture calls it sin (Hebrews 10:26). Lame excuses, justifications, and rationalizations will never solve this!

4. Giving. God doesn’t “need” anything from us (Acts 17:25). Giving has always been an indication of love for God. The poorest Jew under the Law gave ten percent of his gross income (not what was left after paying the bills). Most Jews gave a good deal more. Under the New Covenant we are to give as God has prospered us (1 Corinthians 16:2). How would our income be affected if God prospered us in proportion to the generosity of our giving?

5. Good works. We can name dozens of bad things we haven’t done. That’s great? Now, what good works have we done? That’s one purpose God has for us in Christ (Ephesians 2:10).

It’s time to take inventory!

Seeing as God Sees

By Joe Chesser

If we look very carefully, I'm sure we can see it. For some it will be more difficult than for others, but anyone who really tries can see it. For example, pick up a flower and look closely at the details. What do we see – petals and stems; intricate design; vivid colors? Sure, but what else do we see? Look closely at the night sky. What do we see – twinkling lights, stars, patterns? Sure, but what else do we see? And look closely into the face of a child. What do we see – innocence, purity, the future? Certainly, but what else do we see?

This world our God has created for us to enjoy is filled with marvelous things to see – gently flowing rivers, white-capped mountains, lush forests, amazing wildlife, and even in its own way, beautiful deserts. After creating what we can see around us, and even much more which we cannot possibly see, God looked at all His creation and said, *“it was very good”* (Genesis 1:31). I'd have to agree, wouldn't you? Who doesn't enjoy just looking at sunsets and stars and seas?

As beautiful as these things are in their own right, however, when we learn to see as God sees, the importance of all this natural beauty begins to fade into the background. In the flower we can see more than natural beauty, we can see a God who cares about beauty and delicacy. In the night sky we can see more than innumerable stars, we can see a God who has no limit to His vision and power and control. In a child we can see more than God's greatest creation, we can see the very likeness of God Himself. In these common, everyday things that most people just take for granted, our minds can be opened to see *“His eternal power and divine nature”* (Romans 1:20).

The same principle is applicable to spiritual things. When some look at faith, what they see is a “step” in God's plan of salvation, or one result of reading the Bible (Mark 16:16, Romans 10:17). When some think of baptism, they may only see another

“step” in becoming a Christian (Acts 2:38-41). Or some may only see prayer as an “item” of worship or as a means of getting help (Acts 2:42, Matthew 6:11). While all of these are true and beautiful within themselves, when a Christian grows to the point of understanding these things more from the perspective of God, they become much more valuable. No longer are they just a means to an end or a command to be obeyed; now, they are depictions of a lifestyle patterned after God. Faith describes how Christians are to live day by day (2 Corinthians 5:7), a life focused on God and dependent on Him for guidance (and not ourselves). Baptism is not only the means of contacting the blood of Jesus for salvation (Romans 6:3-4), it is also a reminder of a new birth that is committed to a lifetime of dying to self and depending on the blood of Jesus every day (John 3:5, Luke 9:23, 1 John 1:7). And prayer is not just something Christians should do once in a while but is actually a lifetime of continuous communication with God (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Seeing as God sees opens our minds to so much more than we can possibly imagine (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Really?

While “church attendance” offers obvious spiritual benefits, did you know that studies have found it's good for our physical and mental health too? Here are a few reasons why.

- Going to church boosts the immune system, lowers blood pressure and helps us live longer.
- Frequent churchgoers have a larger social circle and with more kinds of support than people who don't attend.
- People who go to services regularly are less likely to be depressed.
- Teens who regularly attend church do better in school.
- Churchgoers are happier with their lives overall.

“Let's consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds, not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25