

Remember...Trust God...He will be with us!



January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

February Birthdays

5 Lyle Graddon

Regular Meeting Times

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

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

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

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Preacher: Vacant

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Indio Informer

***"Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding."***

Proverb 3:5

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- ***"Fight the good fight"***
- ***"Keep the faith"***
- ***"Finish the course"***

Faith and Morality

By Glen Elliott

The Bible begins with the beginning. And, in that beginning, lies the basic premise around which to build our lives. Morality stands or falls on the basis of one unalterable truth: *"God created the heavens and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1). It is faith in God as our Creator that gives purpose to our lives. Without faith, we are aimless drifters with no hope beyond the grave.

When the apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Romans, he spoke of the evidence for God's existence as displayed in the material universe. He said that what is *"known about God is evident...for God made it evident...For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through that which has been made, so that they are without excuse"* (Romans 1:19-20). Ignorance is no excuse for unbelief. God has provided, through His creation, evidence of His eternal power and divine nature. This argument is closely tied to that which was used by the Hebrew author who said: *"Every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God"* (Hebrews 3:4). Because of its order and design, a house demands an architect and builder. Despite what a future homeowner might wish, a house does not build itself!

Infinitely more complex than a house is the universe. Its builder and designer is God.

But some will ignore the evidence and refuse to give honor to God as their Creator. Refusing to acknowledge God or render thanks to Him for His blessings, they will exchange the truth of what they know about God for a lie and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator (Romans 1:21-28). Such a rejection of God is followed by a downward spiral into moral depravity (Romans 1:29:31). Though included in Paul's description of their wicked behavior, the besetting sin of the Gentile world was not homosexuality, murder, or idolatry. Their great sin was rejecting God. Everything else was the result of their refusal to honor Him as Creator.

It is to our shame that we have allowed godless atheism its stranglehold in our society. Rejecting God as Creator, we have paid the price in moral confusion and wicked behavior. The tide will not be stemmed until we have restored faith in God as our basis of morality. Morality is not inherited from our forefathers. It is not decided upon by popular opinion polls. Morality is founded upon our belief in God. God will hold us each accountable for the lives we choose to live (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Without God, there is no basis for determining right and wrong. And, where there are no absolutes, there is anarchy. Pray that we, as a nation, will turn our eyes back to God as our Creator and to Christ as our hope for everlasting life.

Looking to Jesus

By Jared Green

The Letter to the Hebrews was written to a group of Jewish Christians who were struggling in their faith. Dealing with oppression from those around them, some of these Christians were considering leaving their faith in Jesus and returning to the familiar, more comfortable religion of Judaism. Using evidence from the whole of Scripture, the letter's author makes the case that Jesus is superior. Jesus is supreme over the angels (chapter 1), He is the founder of salvation (chapter 2), He is greater than Moses

(chapter 3), He is the great high priest (chapters 4-9), and His once for all sacrifice offers true forgiveness (chapter 10).

Following the in-depth, doctrinal evidence concerning the superiority of Jesus, the author makes a plea for faithfulness that begins by pointing to the faith of Old Testament spiritual heroes such as Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, and more. Following this list of faithful men and women, the author makes what is, in my opinion, the letter's greatest appeal to faithfulness.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

As the author argues, there is no better example of faithfulness amid trial than that of Jesus Christ. When faced with the most shameful, humiliating, and painful death imaginable, Jesus endured the cross. He was able to endure *"for the joy that was set before Him,"* and because he endured, He is now *"seated at the right hand of the throne of God."* Jesus endured because of the hope and joy of the future, and because of his faithful endurance, we have been offered salvation. Amidst life's trials, may we always look to Jesus as our supreme example. As the author goes on to say, *"Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted"* (Hebrews 12:3). God loves you, and so do I.

Speaker for Today

Thank you, Alexis Brown