

News & Announcements

PRAYER REQUESTS

Janette Banks is now home from the hospital and is doing better. Continue to keep her in your prayers.

Clara Beth Barker's daughter, Marsha is doing better and is working with a speech therapist. Keep Marsha and her family in your prayers.

Keep the following on your prayer list who are either shut-in, unable to worship with us, or have on going health concerns,

Daryion and Janette Banks, Liz Barajas' dad, Dorothy and Firman Barton, Vaughn and Keith Barton, Mary and Bob Cress, Beverly Dempsey, Rachel Kidwell, Beth Nebeker, Bobbye Pounders, Ignacio Reyes, John Simo, and Fernando Vizcarra, Jr., & Lewis Wells, in your prayers.

Our Gospel Meeting is Sunday, May 1 through Friday, May 6, 2016. The speaker is John Robertson of Wichita Falls, Texas. The lessons are as follows: 1) The Jesus of the Bible; 2) A Spiritual Phenom; 3) The Sabbath; 4) Self Control; 5) Bible Study; 6) The Pharisees; 7) How to Use the OT in the NT and; 8) The Beloved Saints.

TRAVELING MEMBERS

Brenda Mendoza should be home this month. Keep Brenda in your prayers for a safe return.

MILITARY MEMBERS

Michael Barnes and David Sims are stationed at Nellis Air Force Base.

WORD OF FAITH

Weekly bulletin of the Vegas Drive Church of Christ

March 13, 2016 • 3824 Vegas Drive • Las Vegas, NV 89108 • (702) 636-4986

Sunday Bible Class: 9 AM • Sunday Worship: 10 AM & 6 PM • Wednesday Bible Class: 7 PM

www.vegasdrivechurchofchrist.com

THERE IS NO DARKNESS IN GOD

The book of 1 John has none of the normal characteristics of a letter. It does not contain the name of the author, an introduction or closing remarks, like you would normally see in a letter. We do not know to whom this letter was originally sent. We do, however, know that God wants us to be certain about our relationship with Him. John wrote, *“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, [even] in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life”* (1 John 5:20). John reminded us of what he had heard, seen and touched concerning the “Word of life.” John and the other apostles knew that Jesus was real because they had heard Him with their ears and seen Him with their eyes (1 John 1:1-4). Our fellowship with God is based upon the teachings and writings of these men. Those who have strong fellowship with God must walk in the light. *“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth”* (1 John 1:6). John's desire was that we know God, love Him completely and be fortified against every false teaching.

Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. John said, *“Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God”* (1 John 4:2). The apostles knew that Jesus came in the flesh because of what they had seen, heard, observed and touched. They knew and confessed that Jesus was the Word of Life. John does not hesitate to exalt Jesus as Divine. He wrote, *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life”* (1 John 1:1). He wrote of the eternal existence of Jesus. He spoke of, *“That which was from the beginning.”* Jesus, the Word of Life, is that one who was in the beginning with God. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* (John 1:1). This Word became flesh and dwelt among men. *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth”* (John 1:14).

The apostles saw and heard Jesus. They reported to us that He is indeed real. Our hope is not futile or in vain. Jesus, the Son of God, has truly come in the flesh!

Jesus Christ produces fellowship with men and God. Many false messages are filling our world. These messages produce division and turmoil. The message of Jesus Christ produces fellowship among men and fellowship with God. *“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ”* (1 John 1:3). Those who become Christians have a bond and a fellowship with each other. They also have a wonderful relationship with God. The closer anyone walks with God, the easier it is to relate to fellow man. Out of the closeness of our fellowship with God and with others, comes true joy. *“And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full”* (1 John 1:4). John pictured the life-giving power of our Lord. The ultimate result of being a faithful Christian is that we have fellowship with God and we have fullness of joy. Jesus came in the flesh and our joy can be full if we are true believers.

God is light and there is definitely no darkness in Him. God is light and He is the creator of light. *“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light”* (Gen. 1:3). How feeble man appears when he considers the power of God and the vastness of His nature. *“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all”* (1 John 1:5). God is light from the standpoint of the guidance that He gives to man (Psalm 119:105). God is light from the standpoint of His holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16). God is light from the standpoint of His glory (Psalm 108:5). We can never know what our life is capable of being until we see it in the revealing light of God’s love. Jesus Christ not only has light, but He has absolutely nothing else. There is no darkness at all in Him! The reason there is no darkness in Jesus is because He refused all the evil things connected to darkness such as immorality, ignorance, hatred, drunkenness and chaos.

God revealed Himself as light and we must come into fellowship with Him. There is no evil or darkness with God and there can be none with the children of God. *“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth”* (1 John 1:6). God’s truth is not just to be known mentally; it is to be committed to our heart and to our daily living. Truth must bring about a transformation of life. Sin is evil; it produces guilt and we cannot allow ourselves to walk in it. Our fellowship with God comes from knowing His will and walking daily in it. *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin”* (1 John 1:7). Our motivating principle must be the light of New Testament teaching.

Walking in the light keeps us in the constant stream of the cleansing blood of Jesus. Sin causes us to recognize the need for the blood of Jesus. John wrote, *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”* (1 John 1:8). John pictured a person saying “I have no sin that needs forgiveness; therefore I do not need the blood of

Jesus.” Sin has a drastic effect in our life. We must confess our sins and be strong to resist them. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9). God is faithful and just. He will keep

His promises to forgive the penitent. God had said in His word that all men are sinners. *“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not”* (Eccl. 7:20). In 1 John 1:10, John spoke of those who said they had “not sinned.” He said, *“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”* If we say we have not sinned and we do not need Jesus, then God’s word is not in us and we have called Him a liar. Sin is a serious matter and can only be dealt with by the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We cannot allow ourselves to live in sin, because such would be a disappointment to our Creator. God deserves better than a claim of righteousness. He deserves our righteous life.

Jesus has come in the flesh. Get to know Him. Obey Him, love Him and honor Him by walking in the light. To become a Christian you must *hear the gospel* (Rom. 10:17), *believe in Jesus* (John 8:24), *repent of sins* (Acts 17:30), *confess Christ as Lord* (Acts 8:37), and *be baptized to be saved* (1 Peter 3:21).

When we think of our salvation, let us thank God for the opportunity of knowing Him!

By: Charles Box

God’s Plan of Salvation

HEAR the gospel Rom. 10:17
BELIEVE the gospel John 3:16
REPENT of your sins Luke 13:3
CONFESS Christ Matt. 10:32
Be BAPTIZED Acts 2:38
Live FAITHFULLY Rev. 2:10

If you are visiting today, we appreciate your presence and hope to get to know you better. Please fill out a visitor’s card so we can have a record of your attendance, and if there is any way we can serve your spiritual needs, please bring this to our attention.
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