

News & Announcements

PRAYER REQUESTS

“**Paul Walker**, Bill Walker’s son, has begun leading Bible studies at the state correctional facility in Florence, Arizona. Please pray for his efforts.”

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, Clara Beth Barker’s daughter, Marsha; Dorothy and Firman Barton, Vaughn, Keith Barton, Ramona Barton, Mary and Bob Cress, Beverly Dempsey, Delois Jenkins, Rachel Kidwell, Beth Nebeker, Bobbye Pounders, Ignacio Reyes, John Simo, Fernando Vizcarra, Jr., & Lewis Wells.

Mens Business Meeting is next Sunday, May 15th at 4:30 PM. All men should try to be in attendance.

TRAVELING MEMBERS

Brenda Mendoza is in Mexico visiting family and will return in three weeks. Keep Brenda in your prayers for a safe return.

LD Wells is traveling and should return soon. Keep him 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

May 08, 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

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EDIFY ONE ANOTHER

At the close of Paul's first letter to the church at Thessalonica, he exhorted them to "edify one another" (1 Thes. 5:11). The word "edify" comes from the Greek word *oikodomeo*. This word occurs thirty-nine times in the original text, and all except eight times it is translated as "build" or "built." Our Lord chose to use this word in Matthew 7:24 when He spoke of the wise man who "built his house on the rock."

The idea Paul had in mind was that Christians should "build" one another up in the faith. After defining the word, Thayer comments that it is "the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christians wisdom, piety, holiness, happiness" (*Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament*, p. 440).

W. E. Vine said the word is "used metaphorically, in the sense of 'edifying,' promoting the spiritual growth and development of character of believers, by teaching or by example, suggesting such spiritual progress as the result of patient labor." (*Expository Dictionary Of Biblical Words*, p. 194).

One of the highest duties that a Christian has is to encourage others. In a world filled with pessimism, violence and despair, our need for encouragement is great. It is all too easy to let the "ways of the wicked" become our ways. The happy man is the one who refuses to "stand in the path of sinners" or "sit in the seat of the scornful" (Psa. 1:1).

After a week of listening to the gripes and complaints of this sin-sick world, Christians should look forward to an isle of retreat on the Lord's day. A place where the name of God is blessed, not cursed. A place where we can enjoy the "seasons of refreshing" which only God can provide (Acts 3:19).

It is truly a shame the Christians do not spend more time in each other's company. The Hebrew writer bids us to "consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" (Heb. 10:24). After the command, he tells us how it is to be accomplished, i.e., "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (Heb. 10:25).

In the days of Haggai, the people of God grew discouraged while the working to rebuild the temple. God commanded them to get back to work, then gave them comfort by saying, "I am with you, says the Lord of hosts" (Hag. 2:4). Consider what it meant for those Jews to whom Haggai spoke to know the Lord was with them. Surely they could remember the stories of how Jehovah had been with their fathers as they passed through the Red Sea. They knew that God had "led them by the hand" through the wilderness on their way to Canaan. In view of God's goodness, how could they doubt Him now?

In a similar vain, Jesus has promised to be "in the midst" of His disciples when they assemble (Matt. 18:20). What a thought! The Son of God in our midst every Lord's day. He has also promised to be with us as we carry out the great commission (Matt. 28:20). Do you desire to be in the presence of the Lord and His people?

As we run our race toward eternal glory, let us continually encourage each other and "run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1,2).

By David Padfield

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THE WONDERFUL GRACE OF GOD

Ephesians 2:8-10, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Titus 2:11-14, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

These three passages explain the wonderful Grace of God. Bible students should understand that no one is saved by Grace alone, but rather that without faith it is impossible to please God.

All should see the relationship between self directed works and works that are according to God's will. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Do you see that, "the grace of God that bringeth salvation, teaches us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"

Grace alone will never save a single soul. God's Grace is a Teacher that guides the believer into the obedience of faith.

Unless one believes they must obey the gospel to be saved, then they will be fooled by the devil into believing that Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world with His own blood, so men and women could continue walking in darkness as they live for themselves. Romans 1:5-6; 16:25-26

By Dennis Scroggins

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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