

West Valley Church of God
P. O. Box 343
San Fernando, CA 91341

Pastors & Elders

Pastor: Wayne & Patty Mitchell
West Valley Elders
Carlton & Judy Green
Cornell Smith

Quotes

Sent in by Jane Hickok

"Forgiveness is the only way to live with the past without being held prisoner by the past."
~~ R. Jonathan Sacks

"Ideas are powerful things, requiring not a studious contemplation but an action, even if it is only an inner action."
~~ Midge Decter

"I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that and then I realized I am somebody."
~~ Lily Tomlin

King Solomon said: There is one who thinks himself rich and has nothing; there is one who thinks himself poor and has great wealth.

The blessing of family, of friends, of community; the joy of kind acts and charity; the inspiration that accompanies wisdom -- these are the gems that are truly priceless. They cost far less than shiny stones, and they make our lives infinitely richer.

As long as we don't forget.

As It Is Written



1Pe:1:22: Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

1Pe:1:23: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Editor's Corner

● Submissions for inclusion in "The Vine" are welcome **at any time**. We need your input! Please email to the editor (See right column) - in **10 point type, Arial font**, for easier placement.

Send submissions to:
TheVineEditor@aol.com -
Subject Line: Title of Article. **Time sensitive** submissions due **5th** of month for following month's issue. **News and Inspirational articles welcome any time.**

NOTICE... Many paintings shown in this publication are for sale. Check your old copies. Contact Editor.

The Vine

"I am the Vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing." **John 15:5**

November 2017

West Valley Church of God -- "Come worship with us..."
Submissions: TheVineEditor@aol.com
We meet at the Congregational Church of Northridge
9659 Balboa Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91325
Saturday Service 10:30 A.M. - www.westvalleywgc.org

DO Something

"Be transformed by the renewal of your mind." **Romans 12:2**

The verb be transformed in Romans 12:2 is a command to do something. This indicates that we as believers are not passive in this transforming process. We're not like blocks of marble being transformed into a beautiful sculpture by a master sculptor. God has given us a mind and heart with which to respond to and cooperate with the spirit as He does his work in us.

That thought leads naturally to a classic statement in scripture of the working together of



the believer and the Holy Spirit within: "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with

fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." **Philippians 2:12-13.**

Paul urged the Philippian believers to apply themselves diligently to

working out their salvation. He urged them to display the evidences of salvation in their daily lives through their obedience to God's commands and through putting on the godly character traits that Paul else where called the fruit of the Spirit. And, according to William Hendrickson, the tense of the verb work out indicates "continuous, sustained, strenuous effort." We see that sanctification is a process, and a process in which we, as believers, are very actively involved.

Upcoming Events

● **Bible Studies, Letters and other Events...see Weekly Bulletin and Bulletin Board.**

Inside This Issue

- DO Something Cover
- Not About Livestock 2-3
- Love Your Enemy 3
- Quotes Back Cover
- As It Is Written Back Cover
- Pastors and Elders Back Cover
- Editor's Corner Back Cover

Continued on Page 2

DO Something (cont.)

But Paul's strong exhortation to the Philippians is based on the confidence that God's spirit is working in them, working to enlighten their understanding of His will, to stimulate in their emotions a desire to do His will, and to turn their wills so they actually obey. He gives them the enabling power so that they are able to do His will.

From *Transforming Grace*
by Jerry Bridges

Sent in by Susan Thompson

Men's and Women's Ministry

Not About Livestock

On a recent Sabbath after services the men met to discuss the topic of a "men's ministry". Because of the some of the comments made in the discussion, I was not sure what we were to accomplish with a "men's ministry". It was agreed that this certainly had to be a "spiritual" ministry, serving others. In the discussion it seemed to me that it was felt that if there was a "women's ministry", there had to be a "men's ministry", but I'm not certain if there was a difference, or if there should be, and what that difference should be.

In my mind any discussions had to include Matthew 25 versus 31 through 46. One of the primary things to remember in the Scriptures is there are sheep (the righteous on the right hand) and goats (the unrighteous on the left hand). Christ gave *the same instructions* to both groups.

To the righteous (the sheep) he said "I was hungry and you gave me some food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me home. 36 I needed some clothes and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you cared for me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." The unrighteous (the goats) *received the same instructions*.

The sheep asked him "Master, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?" "When did we see that you were a stranger and took you home or needing clothes and give you some". 39 "When did we see you sick or in prison and come to you? 40 the King will reply, "I can say with certainty that *whenever you did something for one of My brothers, who others thought of as insignificant, you did for Me.*"

41 and he'll say to those on his left, "Go back to your journey away from Me". 42 when I was hungry you didn't give me any food. When I was thirsty you didn't give Me anything to drink.



(Scripture is taken from the Gabriel Bible. (Greek, Aramaic, Bible, Rewritten in the English Language)

Love Your Enemy

Okay, let's get literal. Either you believe what God tells us in His word.... or you do not. Of COURSE we do!

Really? Let's test that out. The scripture is: **Matthew 5:43-45**

M't:5:43: *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.*

M't:5:44: *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

M't:5:45: *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

It is clearly stated that if we wish to be the "children of our Father which is in heaven", we must DO as He does. God **treats** the unjust and the just **equally** in His mercy - The issue of consequence is a whole other matter.

He does **not** LOVE the sin, the evil, the death and destruction - He does love His creation of which we are part. How can we learn to love in this way?

I believe it takes a continual effort on our part; coupled with a steadfast adherence to the Spirit that lies within us as our downpayment of inheritance.

43 when I was a stranger you didn't take me home, when I needed clothes you didn't give me any, when I was sick and in prison you didn't visit Me. 44 then they'll reply, master, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison and not help you? [5] 45, "I am certain that whenever you didn't do anything for one of these (insignificant) ones, you didn't do anything for Me. 46 They'll go away for an eternal punishment [6], but the righteous to eternal life



[5] See why these "righteous" are ignorant about the kingdom.

[6] the Greek root word of "penalty" is kolazo; "to cut off or prune, as trees and wings".

Both parties responded in the same way; "when did we do this", or "when did we not do this?" The difference between the two groups is that one accepted that Jesus was the Christ, whom they acknowledged as their Master whom they should obey, and the other group did not. And "spiritual service" is any deed that Christ asks us to perform. We can't perform "spiritual" services, *unless it's something He asks us to do, and we do it by His Spirit which He has put in us upon repentance and obedience!*

These were some personal observations that I had while participating in the meeting.

~~~ by John Brown

~~~ Sharon Mills