

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

Pastors & Elders

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

Quotes

“ Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. ”

~Thomas A Edison

“ No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone else. ”

~Charles Dickens

“ If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. ”

~Maya Angelou

“ In reading the lives of great men, I found that the first victory they won was over themselves... self-discipline with all of them came first. ”

~Harry S Truman

“ Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them. ”

~Dalai Lama

“ Learn to enjoy every minute of your life. Be happy now. Don't wait

for something outside of yourself to make you happy in the future. Think how really precious is the time you have to spend, whether it's at work or with your family. Every minute should be enjoyed and savored.” ~Earl Nightingale



Living Waters



M't:28:18: And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

M't:28:19: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

M't:28:20: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

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

March 2018

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

Many Mansions

Joh:14:2: In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.



the meaning of “many mansions”?

We are told Jesus is preparing a place for us. We are told that all things will be re-created when He returns... including this earth, this universe, and everything in,

Have you ever pondered what this means?

How large is your Father's house? Is it limited to this earth? Is not the entire universe His house? What do you think is the purpose of the universe, as we understand it? What is

Illustration © Jean Lyman 2018

around, and through it and whatever is beyond. Comprehension of the possibilities is simply beyond our full understanding.

When He does return, it will be to this earth. An event which will be witnessed by all. At that time, God will fulfill part of His planned purpose for the whole of mankind.

However, this process is only the beginning of a greater destiny. Only God knows the extent of His riches and plans for us. We cannot foretell.

Upcoming Events

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



Inside This Issue

● Many Mansions	Cover
● Every Little Thing	2
● People Empowered...	3
● Quotes	Back Cover
● Living Waters	Back Cover
● Pastors and Elders	Back Cover
● Editor's Corner	Back Cover

1Co:2:9: But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.



Every Little Thing

Life is complicated. Some days more than others. But in this busy world, there are literally thousands of decisions each of us makes on a daily basis. Many would call it "the fast track" others, "the rat race". Envision millions of little creatures scurrying over the freeway system in Los Angeles every morning. If you go to work for a living, that would be you among them.

Yet others may stay home taking care of family, engaging in a home business, or simply "retired"; now you can finally leave the rat race and be able to do all the things you didn't have time for before: sorting through a mountain of junk mail; finally getting to ALL the housework and garden chores, including the demands of spouse, grandchildren, pets, birthdays and celebration events, increasing doctor visits, learning new technologies, catching up on your reading (a long list), exploring ways to keep healthy in the midst of nature taking you in the opposite direction, remembering your medications; and this is only the start of ways to spend your "free time". You soon discover that you are not exempt from the "decision clutter" we each face daily. If you are anything related to this world's "normal", you can easily get lost in the maze. No, it's not necessarily onset dementia... but just an over abundance of "things to do".

Perhaps after living in your home for several decades, you find that your ability to remember the last time you moved your "project X" to another location to make room for your newest

"project Y". Multiply this by at least 50, and try to find what you are looking for right now when you really need it.

Good luck.

Brain on overload, you turn to prayer. Sound like this is something too small for your Heavenly Father to be involved with? Think again.

God says He is always with us, will never leave us nor forsake us, even to the end of the age. Your need may not be equal to that of preventing a nuclear war, but to YOU it is very important this instant. Thus, to GOD is it very important this instant. He knows your plight, your limitations, your shortcomings, your faith in asking Him for this "very little thing" which is so important to you. It takes *guts and faith* to ask God to help you find your little lost item while He is so busy running the universe.

You may ask: "So, how often does God actually answer such a prayer?" Before giving an answer, I will say that God is supremely interested in increasing your *faith*, and highly delighted in your *trust* in Him, *especially in little things*. Therefore, is it 10% of the time? Does He actually help you, maybe 25% of the time? 50%?75%?? Believe me when I say, in this case it is 100%!! Without fail - THAT's a miracle - It's not *just our faith*—but *God's faithfulness!*

I am constantly amazed.

People Empowered With Authority

The called and chosen sons and daughters of God have been given great authority.



They have authority under God to ask anything in His name, and He will give it. They have authority to share the Word of God with others. They have authority to stand up against sin and resist it, and teach against it. God's people have the authority to forgive repentant sinners and accept them back into the Church. The people of the Almighty have much authority, if they would only use it, in His name. The Roman Centurion understood authority, Matthew 8:8-9.

God's people do not have any authority whatsoever to go beyond or contrary to God's commands. They do not have authority to accept liars and hirelings as their elders. We people of God do not have His authority to worship human leaders. It is a strange paradox that God's people today often do not exercise the authority God has given them, but they wrongly usurp authority He has NOT given them!

Psalm 40:4, "Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies."

Psalm 56:11, "In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me."

Psalm 118:8-9, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes."

Psalm 146:3, "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help." The poor widow in the Church has more spiritual authority than the Pope of Rome! Her prayers are heard by the Almighty. Her

moral influence can stop false ministers in their tracks. Her saintly life can melt the heart of the recalcitrant sinner. "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn," Proverbs 29:2. We have usually applied this verse to political or Church leaders, but the text does not demand such a narrow application. I have known righteous widows who are clearly in authority in spiritual matters, by the strength of their character. Members of the congregation recognize their moral authority, and come to them for advice and counsel. When the people of God exercise their righteous authority, great things happen. When they fail to do their duty, grief is the result. The Master taught as one having authority, and not as the scribes, Matthew 7:29. He had done His homework, and He knew the subjects He spoke about.

Every member of the Church of God has been given authority, a work to do, Mark 13:34, Luke 9:1. The Savior will reward some with authority over ten cities, Luke 19:17. Ministers have been given authority for our edification, II Corinthians 10:8. This means training others to exercise authority, not keeping it all to themselves. Unfortunately, because of ministerial abuse [in some churches], many members have jumped into the opposite ditch and now despise all ministerial authority. We individually have a lot more authority than we realize. Let's recognize, and properly use, our God-given areas of authority.

~Author unknown

Sent in by John Brown