

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



50 Things Money Can't Buy

1. Respect
2. Well-adjusted kids
3. Work-life balance
4. Natural beauty
5. Manners
6. Common sense
7. A clear conscience
8. Purpose in life
9. Integrity
10. Good friends
11. A long life
12. Close-knit family
13. An open mind
14. A worry-free day
15. Trust
16. A new beginning
17. Clean arteries
18. A great idea
19. An honest politician
20. Peace of mind
21. A good hair day
22. Patience
23. Luck
24. A good epitaph
25. Happy memories
26. Time to relax
27. A strong work ethic
28. A positive attitude
29. A happy home
30. Everything you may want
31. Good karma
32. Appreciation of the simple things
33. True love
34. A new shot at a missed opportunity
35. Peace in the world
36. A golden anniversary
37. Talent
38. A second chance in life
39. Quality time with your kids
40. Wisdom
41. Happiness
42. Humility
43. A good reputation
44. 25-hour day
45. Relationship with your kids
46. Youth
47. Class
48. Justice
49. A proper perspective
50. Selflessness

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.



"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**

July 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

Undeserved Suffering

By John Brown

"Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?" (Psalm 10:1)

This cry of the psalmist has been echoed times without number by those persecuted for their faith. "Yea, for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.

Awake, why sleepest thou, O LORD? arise, cast us not off for

ever. Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and forgettest our affliction and our oppression?" (Psalm 44:22-24).

Consequently, one of the great mysteries of life is the suffering of the righteous. How can a God of love and power allow such undeserved suffering in His creation?



The fact is, however, that there is no such thing as undeserved suffering, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). The reason there is suffering in the world is that there is sin in the world. Even though one's particular experience of suffering may or may not be directly related to his particular sin, all of us are sinners before God, and therefore deserving of nothing but suffering and judgment in the sight of a holy God.

It is not suffering which is undeserved, but God's grace

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Upcoming Events

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



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Undeserved Suffering - Cont.

and mercy! "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:5). There has only been one person in all history whose suffering was undeserved, and He suffered for us, "the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

Our sufferings are not undeserved, but neither are they uncontrolled, for God "worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Ephesians 1:11). There are many good reasons why God permits a faithful Christian to suffer, but even if one cannot discern the particular reason at the time, he can at least "rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:13).

"Covet? Me?"

It's time to "fess up"... You know you do. What exactly is it you *really* want? A shiny new car? Big fancy house? Lots of money? Becoming a sports hero? Great hair? How about winning a Nobel Prize?

Whether it is one of these mentioned above, something else -- or whatever it is, you just may be in for a shock. None of these desires put you at risk!

Scripture tells us to "be content with" what we have, but it also tells us to desire the best

spiritual gifts... and nowhere does it mention that we can't hope for something we want. Perhaps the apostle Paul hoped for better food while he was in prison. Would that be coveting? Nope. Paul often talked about reaching for "the prize," suggesting we were in a race of some type. It was just a way to relay a message; make a point, as it were.

Well then, just what are the guidelines...the "fine print" of the matter? If wishing, hoping, and trying to aim for success in something isn't coveting, then what is?

The commandment about not coveting your neighbors anything... is the key. To desire anything that is not yours to possess is the whole point. It is stealing. If it doesn't belong to anyone else, it's fair game! Almost.

Webster's dictionary defines the word COVET as follows:

VERB (USED WITH OBJECT)

1. to desire wrongfully, inordinately, or without due regard for the rights of others: to covet another's property.

2. to wish for, especially eagerly: He won the prize they all coveted.

VERB (USED WITHOUT OBJECT)

3. to have an inordinate or wrongful desire.

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Read the above carefully. The bottom line is that if it is without regard for the rights of others; is so strong that it singularly takes up all your time and energy, or is morally wrong in some fashion. That's what coveting means. It doesn't mean we should never want anything.

I know, as children we probably did a lot of it...getting that toy away from our baby brother, who just received it for his birthday, for example. However, we have all grown up now, right? Yes, but we sometimes still find ways to act out. On the freeway, are your manners *always* perfect?

So, that promotion you really desire at work... no doubt you have worked hard to get it; wish away! Maybe with a little luck, it'll be yours!

As for being content with what you have... just do your best, and remember, nothing is really yours anyway. "*You are born alone, you live alone, and you die alone. Everything in between is a gift.*" (Thanks to Yul Brynner for that one).

~~~ Sharon Mills

**Heb:13:5: Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

### Quotes



**"I believe that every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another."**

**" Nothing you wear is more important than your smile "**  
--- Connie Stevens

**" A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out. "**  
--- Walter Winchell

**"Friendship is like a treasury: you cannot take from it more than you put into it."**  
--- Benjamin Mandelstamm

**" A flower cannot blossom without sunshine, and man cannot live without love. "**  
--- Max Muller

**" If you want to be remembered forever, say something profound; maybe you'll end up in a QUOTE "**  
--- You know who

