

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

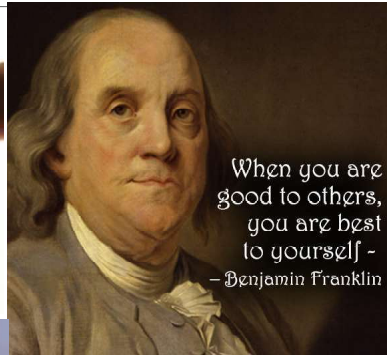
## Pastors & Elders

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

Contributors: Jane Hickok, Susan Thompson

## Quotes

Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Louis Pasteur, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson and Albert Einstein."  
- H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



When you are good to others, you are best to yourself -  
- Benjamin Franklin

" True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost. "  
~Arthur Ashe



"Truth does not become more true if the whole world were to accept it; nor does it become less true if the whole world were to reject it."  
--- Maimonides

## Living Waters



**Phil 2:12,13** 12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.* **13** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

## 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.



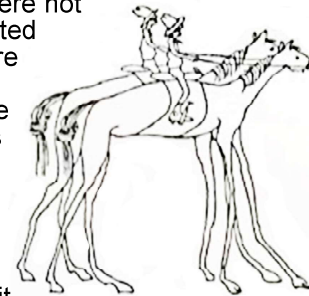
"I am the Vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing."  
John 15:5

December 2019

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.westvalleywvcg.org](http://www.westvalleywvcg.org)**

## Herding Cats...

—We watched a video showing cowboys herding a bunch of cats who were not of a mind to be directed anywhere. They were scattering in every direction, 'driving' the cowboys crazy. This is a response to that video.



"Can't find the darned critters anywhere!"

I've heard of how hard it is to herd cattle and I imagine it is even harder with cats. I've never done either, but I know how hard it is for me to ride herd on my

thoughts and ambitions. I've tried to write down in black and white my goals so I would know where I want to go, so I could see where I'm am going but people and circumstances keep pushing to go where they want or think I should go. The idea for the cowboys is for them to get the cats to market but the cats have their own ideas of what they want, and it is not to market. I think the secret for the cowboys is to get a bell cat out in front with a collar of catnip, so that there would be unity of direction for the cats.

## Upcoming Events

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

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*Looking forward to a great new year!*

It was pointed out, correctly, that this group is about communicating. Those cowboys were trying to get those cats to go someplace they didn't want to go. That was where the cowboys wanted them to go. The cats, with a different



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*Herding Cats (cont.)*

agenda, didn't want to go there; especially they didn't want someone else telling them where to go or how to get there. So how do we do that? How do we get someone to *listen* to what we have to say in regard to *their* destination. The world has a philosophy: "Help someone get what they want and they'll help you get what you want."

God's view, His "philosophy", His "Way" is to *tell*

people the way that is good for them, *tell* them how to get there and then *show* them *how it's done*, by the example of the lives of people who are doing it. He puts His Spirit in those He is using and they "naturally" are following His Way because their nature is changing to conform more to His Way, which leads to eternal life. They see this is the best way to get what they want (its called faith, which is believing what He says is true and that He is going to give them what He says He will). His "Way" is to show people get what is good for them and *then they will have* what is good for them. It's called the way of love. If people can be *shown* that this is the best way then they don't need to be forced, threatened, coerced or bribed. Bribery is an attempt to "buy" somebody with something that may or may not be of value in the eyes of that person.

This is the antithesis of what this group is about. We are trying to be aware of the needs of the



other individual and use that as the basis for whatever we do or say to them. And in this light, the word "temperance" used in King James Version is not the best translation. A better idea is "self control". With this thought, God always leaves us in control of our own destiny. And in the same way, we should always leave the individual with whom we are trying to communicate, the understanding that he (or she) is the one making the decision for his own good based on

all the factors that should be considered. He should be left only with the understanding that the conversation was for the purpose of bringing additional information to his attention and he is wholly in control of the decisions he makes. This self control is not only control of their around but of "self", so they are in complete control of their own destiny. They will *want* to go that way.

*So we have to show them by our lives, not talk, that what we have is what they want. Then they can have the fruit of the Spirit, too. This fruit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faith, awareness of others, self control. There aren't many that would choose against this.*

*How can we show greater love than this, to let the individual be totally in control of his life and destiny?*

~~Submitted by John Brown

## Thoughts: Hebrews 1:1-14

**After reading Chapter One of Hebrews, I was prompted by the question:** "How does it impact me that Christ is supreme? Is there anything I need to obey from what I have learned? Is there anything I need to change or start doing so that Christ will be the priority in my life as He deserves?"



Heb 1:1-14 1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; 4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? 6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. 7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh

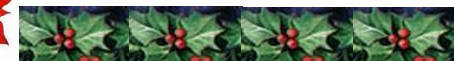
his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. 8

But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;

therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. 13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

**Something to think about.**



**Socks for Homeless**



**Some of the socks collected for distribution to the homeless...**