

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

## Pastors & Elders

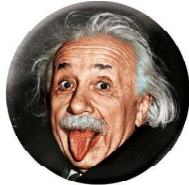
**Pastor:** Wayne and Patty Mitchell  
**West Valley Elders**  
Carlton & Judy Green  
Cornell Smith

## Quotes

People's good deeds are used by the Eternal as seeds for planting trees in the Garden of Eden: thus, each of us creates our own Paradise."  
--- Mezricher Magid

We cannot change our past. We cannot change the fact that people act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude.  
~~Charles R. Swindoll

Contributors: Jane Hickok, Susan Thompson, Lil Dratler



The most aggravating thing about the younger generation is that I no longer belong to it.  
alst.com



Your brain has two parts – the outer is the cortex and the inner is the thalamus. The thalamus is the “child” portion of your brain that handles the emotions and the nerve centers. It is the self-centered portion of your brain and is insistent on “my way.” Whenever you fail to feel like doing the things you should, check to see which part of your brain is in control! The cortex is like the “adult” brain and covers over the thalamus. It should rule the child, but all too often the opposite occurs.  
--- Lil Dratler

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**The price of greatness is responsibility.**  
~~Winston Churchill

## Living Waters

**1 Peter 1:25a** The word of the Lord endureth forever.

**Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

## 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**

March 2020

**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)

## Attitude

Getting the Best from Yourself and Others How to Orchestrate Your Attitude by Julie Davis-Colan and Lee J. Colan



The power of choice is one of the greatest gifts we are given. Although we make many choices every hour of the day, we rarely make neutral choices. Each choice has a positive or negative consequence for us at some level. Our attitude toward life is the most important choice we make! Let's look at why such a simple choice—embracing a positive or negative attitude—is more

challenging than it appears for many people.

Just think of the last time you were in deep thought about your plans for the evening while driving home from work. As you pull into your driveway you wonder to yourself, “How did I get home?” The car seemed to practically drive itself. Driving is a relatively complex task, requiring many choices along the way—turn right, turn left, slow down, stop, change lanes. Still, driving home can be successfully performed almost subconsciously. So, consider the multitude of much smaller choices we make each day that we don't really think about: waking up, brushing our teeth, saying “good morning” to a colleague, eating our lunch, performing a repetitive job duty, and so on. Subconscious actions are useful most of the time, but we must also consciously choose our attitude to control our results. Our ability to choose is a gift, but it is also a huge responsibility. No matter what today's “it's not my fault” culture encourages, we are all ultimately responsible for our own choices. In fact, we like to write the word responsibility as response—ability. As humans,

## Upcoming Events

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

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*Attitude (cont.)*

we have the unique ability to respond. Here's a scenario repeated daily. Family dinners are important at the Smith house. Jim and Jane Smith and their two children (John, age three, and Janie, age four) just sat down at the table. Before the first bite of dinner is enjoyed, John spills his milk and it goes everywhere. A reaction to this event: "Not again, John! Every time we eat, this happens. Think, son, think! Do you want to eat in your room from now on?" A response to this event: "Uh-oh, John. Let's get a sponge and clean this up so you can eat your dinner."

When you react, you make a purely emotional and subconscious decision. Often, because of how your experiences and prior choices have programmed your subconscious mind, your reactions do not help you achieve the best results. On the other hand, when you respond to a situation, you make a constructive and conscious decision. That's why there are emergency response teams, not emergency reaction teams.

When you simply react, your emotional instinct is in control, with little thought of the long-range consequences.

When you respond, your brain is fully engaged and your self-awareness is high. You have the long-term consequences in mind.

We all experience plenty of negative situations and people. Choosing to respond instead of

react helps positively orchestrate our attitudes—and our lives.

Sent in by Susan Thompson

## No Other Gods

**In the first commandment (Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:7), God tells us, "You shall have no other gods before Me." I used to think that this meant simply that I was to make sure God was my first priority. Put God first, then family, job, etc. I have come to see, however, that God is a jealous God (Deuteronomy 5:9) and that what He means, I believe, is that nothing—absolutely nothing—can be worshipped in our lives except Him. God will not abide us placing family, work, or possessions in competition with Him.**

**The Amplified Bible words verse 7, "You shall have no other gods before or besides Me." In my opinion, the Moffatt translation has it best: "You shall have no gods but Me." How clear that is! None, nada, zip, zilch! One God and one God only. Anything that we put ahead of God is "another god." Anything that competes with God for the time that belongs to Him is "another god." John (Brown)**

## Man's Record

The general record of mankind is that wherever he has put his hand, *man has not beautified but used and abused the earth.* God is more concerned about man's spiritual beautification than He is about

the physical earth, but He warns very clearly in [Revelation 11:18](#) that He will "destroy those who destroy the earth." Man does not have the right concept of beauty. He has the wrong standards and ideals because Babylon impressed itself upon him. **He uses and abuses virtually everything**, and the results show everywhere on earth. This approach to life manifests Babylon's way and illustrates why **God commands His people to come out of it.**

God is most concerned about how we act toward other people, how we work within our relationships with our mates, our neighbors, and above all, our God. Do we use and abuse our relationships with God and other people? Do we do everything in our power to dress and keep? Do we have a love of beauty along with a love of righteousness? Although righteousness is indeed the keeping of God's commandments, **God requires more of us in our lives.** Unless we love the beauty of [holiness](#), we will never become holy as God is holy ([1 Peter 1:13-16](#)). **The love of beauty must be encased in a love of righteousness.** From an article in The Berean

## Thoughts

The Hebrew definition of joy means "to leap or spin around with pleasure" It really means to "Jump for joy" Lk 6:23

**JUMP – Jesus Understands My Problems**

God is the source of ALL my solutions – mathematics proves this!! Math is NOT evolutionary – it requires a designer and sustainer.

Knowing when you have enough makes you rich.

3 things in life are certain – death, taxes and change. Embracing change is the only positive.

Ask for discipline to overcome – admitting you can't do it alone.

Standing in the gap requires being informed, inspired, indignant and in sync with others.

Sent in by Lil Dratler

## My Rock

As the times become ever more dangerous to true Christianity, our prayers need to be like David's "I will love you, my Lord and my strength. The Lord is my Rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in Him will I trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: So I shall be saved from my enemies. Ps 18:1-3

Sent in by John Brown

