



NSD

NEWSLETTER

Sunday, May 25, 2008

BIBLE STUDY..... 10 a.m.

“Gospel of Luke”

MORNING WORSHIP..... 11 a.m.

TBA
Dan Austin

EVENING SERVICE.... 6 p.m.

Spiritual Songs & Psalms

WEDNESDAY MEETING..... 7 p.m.

“The Parables of Jesus”

Gestures of Faith

From where, then, does wisdom come?
And where is the place of understanding?

It is hidden from the eyes of all living
and concealed from the birds of the air.

Job 28:20-21

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill,
He treasures up his bright designs, and works his gracious will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take, the clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence, he hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan his work in vain;
God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.

Cowper/Franc

News & Notes

Welcome Visitors. If you are a visitor in our congregation today we would like to welcome you.

Please continue to pray for our military personnel who are overseas--**Logan Harper** and **Sam Barton** and for their families. Also **Earnest Peeples** who was deployed last week.

Member Birthdays for June

17 - Andrew Fredrickson

19 - Paulette Hamilton

29 - Ken Holloway

NORTH SAN DIEGO CHURCH OF CHRIST

7090 Miramar Road 102, San Diego, California 92121

P.O. Box 721513, San Diego, CA 92172-1513

858.578.0734

ELDERS: Dan Austin, Robyn Hamilton, Ron Adams **DEACONS:** Matt Wells **MINISTER:** Dan Austin

<http://nsdca.com>

where the Bible is the source of faith, where Jesus is Lord, where Christianity is a way of life!

Joyful or Miserable?

Ron Adams

But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed. (Romans 10:17)

Some of my most miserable moments in life have been when I was involved in doing what I didn't want to do, participating in what I felt was a waste of time, and doing what I had been "talked into" doing. These feelings are not mine exclusively. No doubt, *you* can relate to these feelings. And the reason for the misery is obvious: my heart was not in what I was doing.

You see, we find happiness in doing what we want to do, when we want to do it, in a way we like to do it. In other words, we are happiest when we fulfill our heart's desire. The good feeling is being produced because we believe that what is being done is important and needful, that it is a good investment of our time and energy.

The Heart Must Be Involved

Unless the heart is involved, one is surely going to be miserable. We all feel a lack of joy when we do "what's expected" of us. In order to be happy we must feel good about what we are doing. This is especially true in serving the Lord.

Commitment without the heart being involved makes one's participation perfunctory, and as a result one feels miserable. Perfunctory (that is, going through the motions mechanically, routinely) participation may give the appearance of true devotion to Christ, but without the heart being in it, it is just so much activity - a "noisy gong or clanging cymbal." In no way does it benefit the participant. And, in some ways it's even detrimental.

Heart-less Worship Is Vain

Unless, and until, one is motivated by a sincere desire to serve the Lord, religion, church membership, and participation in church activities will be but empty actions; not availing any peace and contentment, but the very opposite.

Without a sincere desire, assembling with the saints will never be thpleasant, refreshing and invigorating experience the Lord intended it to be. The song service does not lift the spirit. The prayers don't make one feel closer to God. The communion service doesn't produce the true appreciation of Christ's supreme sacrifice or a great expectation of His second coming. The sermon is tolerated as a necessary thing to endure. And the contribution is seen as a necessary "payment."

But with a genuine desire to serve the Lord, participation in these activities become a joyful and meaningful experience. One that leaves the individual better off because of he or she has been involved.

Commands Are Not a Burden

You see, the Lord gives the admonition to "not forsake our own assembling together" (Hebrews 10:25), because He knows that it is absolutely necessary for us to have the support and encouragement of others, as well as to honor Him and the Father in such worship. He has not given the admonition so as to place a burden (obligation) upon us. Those whose heart is right see it for what it really is: a necessary participation that helps one maintain and enhance their faith.

When some find themselves feeling miserable while participating in the things of the Lord, they may decide to stay away. But this only produces guilt. So they are torn between the two: feeling guilty for staying away, or being miserable while participating. The only way to resolve the matter is to have a change of heart. Changing one's thinking. Because that's where the problem lies - in the heart.

Once one has given his or her heart to the Lord, the rest falls into place. Living for the Lord becomes a joyful experience. Church services become a refreshing activity. Commands are seen, not, as a burden; but guidelines to doing what is good and right.