

NSD

NEWSLETTER

Sunday, March 2, 2008

BIBLE STUDY..... 10 a.m.
“Gospel of Luke”

MORNING WORSHIP..... 11 a.m.
“Most of What I Need to Know”
Ron Adams

EVENING SERVICE.... 6 p.m.
“The Compassion of Christ”
Ken Holloway

WEDNESDAY MEETING..... 7 p.m.
“Remember”

... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Col 3:16

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

Psalm 34:1-3 (ESV)



If we err in human blindness,
And forget that we are dust;
If we miss the law of kindness
When we struggle to be just;
Snowy wings of peace shall cover
All the plain that hides away,
When the weary watch is over,
And the mists have cleared away.

Annie Herbert

News & Notes

Please keep **David Covalt** in your prayers as he is currently job hunting.

Please continue to keep **Samantha Wilson** and **Martha Holloway** in your prayers.

Dan Austin is on Naval duty in Alameda, CA.

The **Men’s Assignment Schedule** with duties for worship days is posted on the bulletin board.

The **Sign-up Sheet for Teaching** is on the back wall. If you have a desire to help with teaching classes you can indicate your preference on the sheet.

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:** Ron Adams

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

Making the World A Better Place

Part II

by David Thurman

In last week's article, David Thurman wrote that as Christians the best way to make the world a better place is to begin by improving ourselves. By making ourselves better, we make our society better and thus make the world better. Last week we looked at two ways to make ourselves better: 1) be honest and 2) deal with emotions. This week we look at some additional ways...

Be Selfless

"Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need" (Eph. 4:28). Paul again turns to honesty, but this time with a different emphasis. He warns us to not think of life in terms of what we can get, but in terms of what we can give. Thieves take from others with no regard for their needs. Believers deal with others by starting with their needs. If each of us made selflessness our goal in 2008 how different our homes would look, how different our jobs, our schools, even our churches would look.

This is a challenge in our culture. We work hard to get ahead. We strive to make sharp deals so as to save money, or put something over on someone else. But, Christians are to be different. It is our priority that the needs of others get met, even in business, or at school, or at home. If you want 2008 to be better, learn to put others first.

Be Positive in Communicating

"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear" (Eph. 4:29). Looking around our world there is plenty to be critical of. From violence, to elections, to television news, what we hear most is the bad stuff that happens. It is easy for each of us to fall into the trap of seeing the ugly in every situation. So, Paul tells us to start looking for the good in others and their lives.

But Paul doesn't just tell us to look for good. He tells us to communicate the good. Too often in our world the first thing we hear is the negative, what we did wrong. Christians are to reverse that. We look for the good in others and we speak the good to others to build them up. It is our task to communicate God's grace to others. That is, we are to give others unmerited favor. Sure, we can always see the negative, but we focus on the good and speak of the good.

Be Merciful

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Eph. 4:31-32). The last great thing Paul mentions is mercy. Too often we are keyed up, on edge and ready to take offense at what others do or say. Instead of that, we are to put away bitterness, not be so sensitive to the failings of others and be kind.

Again, this would turn our world upside down. If we, as Christians, could develop more patience with the mistakes and sins we have to face every day, if we could be merciful to others as God has been to us, the world would immediately be a better place.

But, more importantly, you can let go of the anxious energy you use to hold a grudge. The fact is, your new year will be better for you if you learn to forgive those around you. And, notice, this doesn't mean you only forgive when they apologize. It means instead that you are always ready to forgive and put the past behind you, even as the people around you keep failing. That is how God's grace works in our lives. That is the grace He wants us to extend to others as well.