



3, 2023

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 850 MINTER AVE., SHAFTER, CA 93263

### BIBLE CLASS

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Youth Class: Eddie Fisher

Children's Class: Debra Young

### PRAYER TIME

9:15 AM – 9:30 AM

### WORSHIP TIME

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

#### Elders

Eddie Fisher 342-8337  
Garry Nelson 331-3858  
Mike Westbrook 910-2197

#### Deacons

Mark Keeley 333-3677  
Ron Nunlist 746-6531

#### Minister

Jim Young 527-7026

[Jimyoung2work@aol.com](mailto:Jimyoung2work@aol.com)

Church Office 746-2205

#### Office Hours:

Monday ~ Tuesday ~ Wednesday  
8 am to 1 pm

Thursday  
11 am to 4:30 pm

Friday Out of the Office

#### Bulletin

Jan Nelson 332-6146

[grammyjan51@yahoo.com](mailto:grammyjan51@yahoo.com)

Sandy Westbrook 910-8143

[mikewestbrook@att.net](mailto:mikewestbrook@att.net)

Don't forget to check out our  
website

No te olvides de visitar nuestro  
sitio web

[www.shafterchurchofchrist.com](http://www.shafterchurchofchrist.com)

Bible on your phone

MySpectrumWiFif8-2G

MySpectrumWiFif8-5G

password: purplelemon096

## EVENTS

Thursday night dinners are taking a break until after the holidays.  
They will resume on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Cooks will be Ann and Jan

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> Elders meet at Church Kitchen at 8:00 a.m. If you have questions or comments, please put in the box or see one of the Elders.

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Women's Prayer Brunch ~ at 9:30 a.m at Jan's home

Dec. 10 - Farewell potluck for Mark and Leanne

**NO MOVIE NIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. THEY  
WILL RESUME JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup>**



Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> for a farewell potluck for Mark and Leanne after services. Ham and potatoes will be provided, but please sign up in the back to bring side dishes and dessert.

They will certainly be missed but we wish them the best as they make Texas their new home. We thank them for their many years of faithful service to our congregation.

1 – Lynn McDougal

7 – Jeremiah Keeley

8 – Buddy Hooper

9 – Ann Cowsert

11 – Nancy Nunlist

15 – Elijah Keeley

22 – Demetrio Diaz

28 – Garry Nelson



11 – Buddy and Darlene

14 – Eddie and Vivian

Love God ~ Love Each Other ~ Love the Lost ~ Live in His Light  
Amar a Dios ~ Amarse Vnos a Otros ~ Amar a los Perdidos ~ Vivir en Su Luz

## Pastor's Corner of Light: Christ's Suffering Helps in Our Suffering

At some point, please read **Isaiah 53** because in this chapter we can see how the Incarnation, *how God becoming a man*, helps us through His suffering.

All of us here live in a beautiful world but it's also a world of great suffering, sorrow, and loss. I hope we can learn to face suffering where we're not just surviving it but persevering through it *with faith and peace in our hearts*. This is critical because we are all going to face various forms of suffering in life. Where does suffering come from? Suffering comes to us primarily in two ways—losing something you had or missing out on something you wanted. Subsequently, we are all going to suffer at some point.

There's two things that **Isaiah 53** teaches us about God that helps us to persevere through suffering — **a)** the suffering of God and **b)** the sovereignty of God. Today, I want to look at the first: **A)** The text tells us that when God became a man, He became a man of sorrows, a man who suffered greatly. This is very important in helping us persevere through OUR suffering because one of the difficulties in our suffering is the belief that nobody understands what we are going through. This passage teaches us is that actually, the most important person in the world **does feel your pain** because He's already felt it Himself.

We read in verse 2 that Jesus had no form or majesty that we should look at him – in other words He was not anything special to look at. In verse 3, 4 & 5 we see that Jesus was not only despised by men, but He was rejected - He was cast aside as a nobody. So, God became a man of sorrows in every sense of the word. He didn't just feel the full weight of physical sorrows but the emotional / relational and financial sorrows as well. Jesus lived a difficult life. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Why? So that in the midst of every type of sorrow, you and I could know we have someone to turn to who understands. He can sympathize with us. He can feel our pain.

It's in times of great suffering that the shortest verse in the Bible becomes one of the most important: "Jesus wept." It teaches us that God became a man of sorrows. He didn't distance Himself from the painful realities of life. He entered in. This means that when you weep, He weeps, just as He wept with Mary and Martha at their brother's grave. In your pain, He too is pained. The God of Christianity is not an impersonal concept that is immune to the emotions of life. God weeps, God grieves, and God knows and understands what you're going through. The God of Christianity is the only religion which portrays our God who knows what it's like to suffer and can completely sympathize with us. In Ps 23 it is recorded: "I will fear no evil, for You are with me." We should **know** hope because we can know with certainty that He is with us! Like the men in the fiery furnace – God is with us. Next week we will look how the Sovereignty of God helps us!



*There are sign-up sheets on the round table in back for December if you would put your name down to help with cleaning assignments of the building.*

*They are broken up into 3 groups so should make it a little easier to pick a group you feel you can do to help with. And we really need the help!*

- 1. Clean auditorium and disinfect chairs / door handles*
- 2. Clean the 2 outside restrooms and North entry doorway*
- 3. Clean foyer floor, dust, glass doors / windows / Nursery restroom*

*Ask Vivian or April where the vacuums are and cleaning supplies. If supplies are needed let Mike know as he has key for toilet paper and paper towels.*

***We really would appreciate it if you or your family would pick 1 of the 3 chores that need to be done. THANK YOU!***

***It is a grace to be willing to listen to and consider criticism.  
It takes grace to quiet the mind and settle the heart to hear.***

We are not naturally open to criticism. Most of us don't like to be confronted. It is natural for us to rise to our own defenses when we are questioned. It is natural for us to work to convince ourselves and others that we are righteous. When questioned, it is natural for us to get out our catalogs of righteousness as evidence to convince others that they must have misjudged or misunderstood us. It is natural for us to be more focused on and concerned about the sin of others than our own. It is natural for us to confront others with things that we excuse in ourselves. It is natural for us to see our wrongs as less than wrong. It is natural for us to swindle ourselves into believing that we are far more righteous than we really are. For sinners, self-righteousness is more natural than humility.

In short, it is more natural for us to have hard hearts that are resistant to change than hearts that are open, humble, and crying out for change. So if you are open to loving confrontation, if you are ready to admit your sin, if you are thankful for those who have loved you enough to help you see what you would not see on your own, and if you ready to confess and seek forgiveness, you know that you have been visited by the grace of Jesus, because none of these attitudes is natural for us apart from divine intervention.

It takes powerful redeeming grace to remove the hearts of stone from us and replace them with hearts of flesh – hearts that are sensitive to sin, sensitive to the grace of conviction, sensitive to the need for change, and resting in the forgiveness that is found only in Jesus. It takes grace that guarantees that the blood of Jesus has covered everything about us that could ever be known or exposed to give us the courage to look at ourselves in the searching mirror of the Word of God. It takes grace for us to let go of excuses, rationalizations, self-atoning arguments, and our tendency to shift the blame to others. It takes grace for us to be able to stand as sinners before a holy God and admit that there are ways in which we are still rebel against his lordship and his commands.

Confession is not intuitive for sinners. Humility is not our natural first response. Love of God more than love of self is not a first instinct. The glory of God isn't naturally the core motivator of what we do and say. So if you are willing to say, "God, show me my heart," and willing to speak these words, "Please forgive me," you know that you have been showered with amazing grace – grace that has already changed your heart and grace that promises more change to come.

***For further study and encouragement: Psalm 51  
Taken from New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp***

*God, we pray to be filled with Your wisdom. We ask that  
You forgive our foolish ways, and we thank You for Your  
grace. In Jesus' name.*

*Amen*

*Love God ~ Love Each Other ~ Love the Lost ~ Live in His Light  
Amar a Dios ~ Amarse Vnos a Otros ~ Amar a los Perdidos ~ Vivir en Su Luz*



If you need prayer, please let one of the Elders know, or put a note in the box at the back of the auditorium. You can call Vivian **Fisher (889-4075)** to start the prayer chain.

### \*TRAVELING

**Mark & Leanne** left for Texas to take one moving pod and will be returning for the other pod **Jan** in Arizona with Syble; home late Wednesday night; prayer for safe travel

### \*NEW

Lord, give me the same concern and compassion for the lost that you have. Open doors that I might share your message of love and salvation.

\* **Trina's** 19-year-old cousin, Jordan, had surgery this past week after his lung collapsed; a recurrent problem; has already had surgery before for this

\* **Natalie and Joyce** were both under the weather

\* **Buggy** is doing better but is still not stabilized

\* **Gene Coodey** fell and was seriously injured

\* **Trina's son, Noah**, is having medical tests done

\* **Buddy** had his first chemo treatment this past Tuesday; prayer to tolerate the medication

\* **Italia**, 11-year-old granddaughter of Connie's friend, was diagnosed with leukemia a year ago, how has tumors in her stomach and is in children's hospital in Los Angeles

**Don**, Mary N.'s son in Missouri, is scheduled for shoulder surgery December 8<sup>th</sup>

**Jean**, Ann's friend, passed away this week after complications from knee surgery

**Jeff**, Nancy's son, had shoulder surgery and is recuperating

**Randy Wilson**, Joyce's nephew, is on hospice for his cancer

**Martha**, Connie's cousin, had surgery for lung cancer

**Demetrio** has an appointment with a neurologist in January

**Buggy's husband, Gary**, continues to have on-again, off-again, health problems

**Sandy** is having physical therapy Wednesday and Friday

**Smart Family** as several members struggle with cancer

**Jose** is in the hospital with liver and kidney issues

**Tank**, ill

**Mary C.'s son, Aaron**, is going to need neck surgery

**Kali**, Nina's granddaughter is struggling with severe headaches and personal issues

**Adelfa's sister** in Mexico is very ill

**Janese**, dealing with some family issues

**Nina's grandson** is having health and family issues

**Continued prayers for James' aunt Laurie** with family issues

**Billy**, Debra's son unspoken prayer

**Tate**, Nina's grandson, having health and family issues

**Unspoken Prayers** . . . we know their names, and, above all, God knows them...

**Barbara** continues to be struggling with her back pain

**Mary N. and Mary C.** having struggles with their health



**We have moved several of those on our New Prayer List to the Long-Term Prayer List that will put out once a month so please remember to let us know updates on any of those on prayer lists so we can give updates! Just because we move the name off does not mean we are not to continue to pray for that person.**