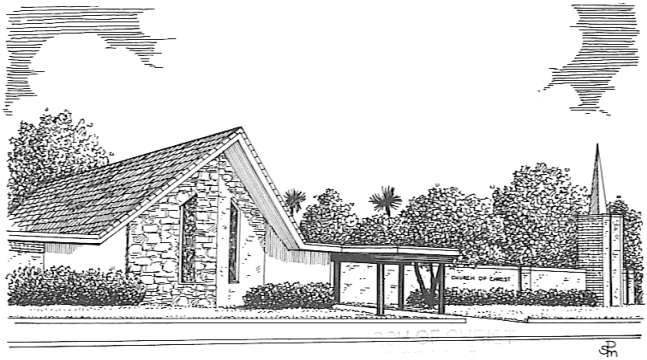


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March 17, 2024



Palm Springs Church of Christ

Palm Springs, CA

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John 3:16-21 The Good and Bad News

John 3:16 is the most memorized verse in the Bible: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Martin Luther calls this verse the "Gospel in miniature". Gospel in Greek is euangelion, meaning "good news" [eu=good, an-gelion=news]. But very few of us memorize the verses that follow: "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he had not believed in the name of the only Son of God" (v.18). Because the Gospel is Good News, people need to know the Bad News.

A Church put out a sign outside its gate: "Jesus is the Answer!" Soon, a passer-by scribbled the text underneath the announcement: "But what is the question?" Just shouting out that the Gospel is the Good News is meaningless if people do not know what the Bad News is all about.

The Bad News is we humans are all condemned already because we live in the kingdom of darkness under Satan's rule: "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed" (vv. 19-20). For those who live in darkness, the Good News sounds like Bad News because it threatens to expose their dark deeds. That is why the world hates the light and Christians who are in the light.

This dilemma is what Martin Luther calls the Law and Gospel dialectic: the same Gospel (John 3:16) can be both Law (it condemns you if you disbelieve) or Gospel (it liberates you if you believe). But Jesus did not come to condemn but to save--to set us free from the domain of darkness. But our response to the Gospel can make it Good News or Bad News, depending on the state of our heart: "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17).

We don't have to tell people they're going to hell. Many people are already experiencing hell on earth. No matter how superficially well-adjusted or successful a person might appear, many individuals are actually going through their own private pains that have confined them to their homes and even workplaces.

If we are still in the darkness, we need to accept or affirm Christ as our Lord and Savior so that the light of the Gospel may break into our hearts to expose and expel the darkness brought upon us by Satan. Jesus describes Satan as the thief who "comes only to steal and kill and destroy." In contrast, He comes "that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10).

Abba-Father, thank You that You have delivered us from the darkness of sin and Satan through Christ who has died for us at cross. Help us experience this Gospel of joy and peace today! Deliver us from Satan's clutches, so that we may experience the abundant life from Christ. Amen.

- adapted from an article by Then Chee Min, patreon.com

We have a commitment, empowered by the Holy Spirit,
To give glory to God
To be unified in reaching others



*Welcome to the
Palm Springs Church of Christ*

Welcome, all! May God’s light shine upon us as we gather to worship. May the brilliance of His light and His wisdom fill us. May it be as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. (Ephesians 6:18)”

Pray for our Church family:

Please continue to pray for the improved health of: Mae Britton, Kerry Britton, Lynette Brink, Sue Collins, Wanda Goodenough, Byron Isaac, Brenda Jones, John Leonard, Roy McDonald, Jerry Munn, Dail Paramore, and Francis Pati.

Pray for family & friends:

Please keep Tammy D’Arcy in your prayers as she is undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Pray for: The Westom family as they mourn the loss of Donn Westom who recently passed away, Marjorie Counts who is in hospice care and Dustin Parker’s dad, Mike who continues to recover from a stroke. Pray for the improved health of: Mary Fields, Keith & Lisa Britton, Kathy’s husband Kevin, Derek Fields, Dail’s friends Marie C. and Teddy K.

First responders: Please keep those who are serving their communities in your prayers: Alisha K. (EMT); Joanna Carter (Nurse), Luther Carter (Naval Officer), Jody Huggins and Jory Huggins (Patrol Officers); Dr. Janice Massey of N.C.

Military:

Jeff Mercer’s son-in-law Brandon Deusenberry, Glenn Fields, and Kathy’s family T. Burgess and T. Cairo.

Prayer Warriors Corner

Dear Father, help us to remember we are lights. Help us to continue to refuel ourselves from Your precious word that others might see and glorify You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Power For Today: Sellers S. Crain, Jr. 11/24/2020
Read: Matthew 5:14-16

News:

Potluck news: Our next potluck will be on April 7 following worship service. Each individual household, please bring a main dish and a side dish or dessert.

Please continue to keep Solomon, the father of Amy Miller, in your prayers, as he recently had a stroke and is in rehab.

The Community Food Bank: Peanut Butter and Ramen packs are where the greatest need is at this time. Other non-perishable items are: soups, canned vegetables, canned beans, 1 lb. packs of rice or beans, canned tomatoes, canned pasta sauce and quart size storage bags. Thank you for your continued support, your donation is greatly appreciated.

In Search of the Lord’s Way: Watch excellent Bible-based messages every Sunday, 7:30 a.m., on KCWQ, VHF channel 2 or UHF channel 26. Also Available ANY TIME online with You Tube. Just enter: SearchTVMinistry and pick a sermon. <https://youtu.be/FxMzZ6ZKMdQ>

Scripture reading: John 3:16-21

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

Sermon title:

“The Verdict is This”



Birthdays:

Lizet Olea:	3/1
Enrique Olea:	3/24

Ladies Bible Class: Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m.

Bible study: Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

Worship service: Sunday @ 10:30 a.m.

WORSHIP ORDER

WELCOME / OPENING PRAYER

650: Send the Light (1,3 & 4)

176: Lamb of God (1 & 2)

COMMUNION & OFFERING: 1 Cor. 11:23-26

611: Heavenly Sunlight (1-3)

Brief Intermission

549: There Is Sunshine in My Soul (1-3)

SERMON

INVITATION

642: Let the Lower Lights Be Burning (1-3)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLOSING PRAYER

Sermons on line: For the most recent locally recorded sermon, simply go to the Palm Springs Church of Christ webpage and click on the “sermons” category at the top of the page.

<http://www.crenshawchurchofchrist.com>

Tri Lakes Church of Christ in Monument, Colorado