

The Vistoso Voice

Friday, January 1, 2021

Weekly

TUESDAY MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Tuesday morning studies will resume on Tuesday morning January 12 at 10:00 am. This winter/spring we will undertake a study of Revelation Chapters 1-3 which includes a message from Jesus to seven churches scattered throughout Asia Minor. This is a very timely study, and the text itself promises a blessing to those who read and respond.

Pick up Your Study Guide

Study guides will be available from the Church Office by Wednesday January 6, so that you can have the first lesson prepared for discussion on the 12th.

The Sessions

Men will meet in the sanctuary and ladies in the Fellowship Hall. We will stream the men's session in the sanctuary for those who would like to work through the study guide and follow along with us from home.

Special Request

As a special request, would the ladies who are planning to attend please use the sign-up sheets at the buffet table in the Fellowship Hall or Visitor's desk in

the foyer to give us a count.

All members of our VCC congregation are urged to join the study either in person or online. It is going to challenge us to critique how we do "church," as well as personally bless those involved.



thisweek

Sunday, January 3, 9:00 and 11:00 am: Communion service. No fellowship between services.

Wednesday, 10:00 am: Mid-week Bible Hour.

Friday: Men's Bible Study 7:30.

Meetings

Tuesday, 9:30 am. Women's Leaders Planning Meeting

Thursday, 10:00 am. Missions Committee Meeting

Vistoso Community Church

Telephone: 520 825-0652
e-mail: vistoso@icloud.com
website: vistoso.org
Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday:
10 am-2 pm;
Friday: 8 am-12 noon

Pastor: Kevin Redig
Emergency: 520-403-4088



From the Pastor's Desk

A DIFFERENT KIND OF RESOLUTION

The *pastor's grapevine* has had a common theme for the past few months—division in the local church is springing up over issues that have nothing to do with *the Church!* Contention has sprung up over these issues:

- Should we meet or shouldn't we?
- Should we enforce the wearing of masks or shouldn't we?

Throw in a bit of political difference of opinion and a dash of vaccine controversy and you have a recipe for division to spring up in the church over things that have absolutely nothing to do with the Church of which Jesus Christ is the head!

But Not Here!

Could it be that we have that kind of problem, here, in our fellowship? No, I don't think so! But perish the thought we would let anything like that take hold at VCC. If it has crept in around the edges of our thinking, we need to repent, confess, and reconsider as we head into the New Year. For Satan "*prows about seeking whom he may devour*" (1 Peter 5:8), as he seeks a crevice where he might sow seeds of discord and compromise a God-ordained mission. When he crests the hill at the top of Rancho Vistoso Blvd, he needs to find this fellowship,

Continued on Page 2.



A DIFFERENT KIND OF RESOLUTION (CONTINUED)

shoulder to shoulder with no gaps in the line. He needs to find us, just like the graphic, all having *"put on the full armor of God so that we might take our stand against the devil's schemes."* (Ephesians 6:11)



And Not in the Future!

Perhaps you are thinking, "Pastor, that is way too dramatic!" Maybe. But part of my role as pastor is to foresee potential pitfalls in the road ahead and, to the best of my ability, help keep us well clear of all such hazards. So let me walk you through the following:

1. The Church is God's masterpiece, and the Bride of Christ. (Ephesians 5:22-33) As such, He desires the church to be: holy, radiant, without stain or blemish, and blameless!
2. His Church has a mission! It is to represent Him to a lost and desperately needy world that the lost would receive eternal life, and those with new life would grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

3. There will always be stimuli coming from the world that seeks our attention—to draw us away from spiritual reality. The pandemic is just the latest example. Think back over the past 20 years.

Remember the commotion over Y2K, the "do they or don't they" of the Gulf war, the angst over the Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage, and now the corona virus.

4. As God's people, we are to *"take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."* (II Corinthians 10:5) We are to keep from getting overly enmeshed in the affairs of this world, for we are *"aliens and strangers"* in this world with a *heavenly citizenship*.
5. So, if it is not right for us to let the details of this fallen world dominate our thinking, how much worse to let those details cause division within the Body of Christ. Upon the authority of God's Word, I can dogmatically say the local church is a

place in which there is to be no such thing!

Providing Safeguards

I am not saying that we can ignore what is going on in the world. Nor, am I saying that the choices we make as a fellowship do not have consequences—for they most certainly do. What I am saying is this: your Pastors, when it comes to spiritual matters, and the VCC Board, when it comes to administrative matters, will do their best to lead, protect, encourage, and nurture—all for the purpose of keeping our focus on our calling as a local church. You can agree or disagree, and we are perfectly comfortable with you doing so. However, I will tell you there is a proper way to disagree and maintain your fellowship with the Lord and thereby avoid sowing discord. If what do leads to division within the body of Christ, you can be sure that you have crossed the line.

One Last Caution

Perhaps you are thinking, "I did not know we had this kind of problem!" As far as I know, we don't. But, as mentioned above, many churches are dealing with this very problem right now. I know God has specific works for us to do! He is going to open some doors for a united church body to make a difference in our community, our extended families, and our missions outreach. I wouldn't want anything to compromise what God wants to do through us. For He loves this fellowship, and desires for it to be without spot or blemish as it exalts His Son. To that end an ounce of prevention is preferable to a pound of cure.

I am grateful to serve in the year ahead,