



The Vistoso Voice

UPPER ROOM DISCOURSE, MEN'S AND WOMEN'S STUDY

The Men's and Women's Bible Study in John Chapters 13-17—titled *The Upper Room Discourse*—is divided into three parts. The October and November session covered the first eight lessons. This winter we will have another 12 lessons, divided into two sessions: January 7-February 11 and March 3-April 7. The class will have a mid-term break on February 18 and 25. The lesson books for Part II are available now in the Church office. The books for Part 3 will be available in January.



NEW ATTENDERS CLASS

Friday, January 17, beginning at 9:30 am, Pastor Kevin will hold a New Attenders Class for those who would like to know more about Vistoso Community Church. There is no registration, simply come!

AN UPDATE TO OUR CORE VALUES ADDS SALVATION

On January 22, at VCC's annual meeting, our congregation will have the opportunity to approve an addition on salvation to our Core Values. The summary statement is in bold type followed by the expanded explanation.

Salvation is solely through Christ, gifted to us by faith in who He is and what He has done.

John 2:31, Ephesians 2:8-9

The Scriptures make plain, eternal salvation from hell to heaven is unearned on the part of mankind! It is a gift from God to anyone and everyone who will believe in who Jesus is and what He has done^a; specifically, that He is the eternally existent second person of the Trinity who bore the sins of mankind while on the cross, receiving unto Himself the wrath of God in order to satisfy the requirements of God's justice and righteousness.^b

No work or accomplishment on the part of the individual is necessary to receive this so-great

salvation that is available in Jesus Christ. It is received only through faith alone in Christ alone.^c The fact that salvation is a gift of grace exempts us from the need to pressure the lost to exercise sincerity, commitment, behavior modification, or anything else that implies that a lost person can contribute to his or her own salvation.^d

Salvation is not about what we might do, it is about what Christ has done.^e However, when a lost person has been saved through faith, it is equally apparent from the Scriptures, that as a new creation in Christ^f, he or she is to begin a life-long process of being conformed to the image and likeness of our Lord and Savior.^g And this sanctification is accomplished only through the enabling power of the Spirit of God and the guidance of the Word of God.^h

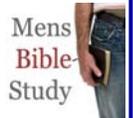
a. Ephesians 2:8-9; b. Hebrews 2:10-17; c. John 6:29; d. Romans 8:8; e. John 19:30; f. II Corinthians 5:17; g. Hebrews 10:14; h. Galatians 5:16, Colossians 3:1

JANUARY Activities

Saturday Evening Services resume January 4 at 5:00 pm and will continue until Easter.

Upper Room Discourse Study resumes January 7, 2020. See the article on this page.

Men's Bible Study meets at 7:30 am for an hour on five Fridays this month: January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. Invite a friend.



HeartCall Ladies Bible Study is on hiatus during January. The ladies HeartCall study resumes on Thursday, February 13.

Recovering Your Joy Bible Study will conclude with two Wednesday lessons, January 8 and 15, at 9:30 am.

VCC's Midweek prayer and Bible study service does not meet on New Year's Day. Services at 5:00 pm are scheduled for January 8, 15, 22, and 29.

Choir practices resume on Wednesday January, 8, at 3:00 pm. The first practice for the Easter Cantata is Saturday, January 18, from 1:00-3:30 pm.

Vision Sunday is January 26. During the Sermon Pastor Kevin will remind us of the VCC vision.

VCC's Annual Meeting is set for Wednesday, January 22 at 5:00 pm. All VCC members are urged to attend this meeting that reviews both our progress and VCC's plans for 2020. See the article at left for additional details.





A Teaching Moment

From Pastor Kevin Redig

As we start the New Year, I want to spend some time considering the Church.

Reasons We Need to Consider the Church

Let me give you a few reasons why I think this is important for us:

- The Church consists of all those who have placed their faith in the person and work of Christ. The Church is also referred to as the *Body* of which Christ is the head.

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body. . . Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
(I Corinthians 12:13,26)

And He put all things under His (Jesus') feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
(Ephesians 1:22-23)

- The Church began on the day of Pentecost, and continues to this very day. Just as God chose to work



through Israel in the past, we live during the period of time in which He has chosen to work through His Church. Biblically, we live during the period of time referred to as the dispensation, or stewardship, of the Church.

I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the Church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God. . . the mystery which has been hidden from ages past and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.
(Colossians 1:24-27)

- Not only is there a *universal* Church, which consists of all saved individuals on the planet, but there is also such a thing as the *local* church, and that would be the saved individuals who gather together in one particular location. Those who regularly gather at Vistoso Community Church constitute a *local* church through which God desires to manifest Himself to the surrounding locale.

To the church of God which is at Corinth. . .
(I Corinthians 1:2)

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse. . .
(Colossians 1:2)

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus.
(Ephesians 1:1)

- The Church is very precious to the Lord Jesus Christ. For He purchased the Church with His own blood.

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood.
(Acts 20:28)

- The Church is God's masterpiece, and He has things in mind for it to accomplish.

For we (the Church) are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.
(Ephesians 2:10)



Note that all the pronouns in Ephesians Chapter 2 are plural. All these pronouns refer to believers corporately, that is, the Church.



PASTOR KEVIN'S TEACHING MOMENT, CONTINUED

Questions to Consider

Now that I have given you a little bit of information about the Church, let me ask two closely related questions:

1. As one of the many local churches that make up the universal Church, what does God want us to do, corporately?
2. As a local church, what does the Lord Jesus want us to be?

Since Jesus is the head of the Church, we should most certainly be asking Him with an intent to follow where He leads! We should certainly be studying His Word, with an intent to understand and obey as enabled by His Spirit. For, as much as we might want to live a life that glorifies the Lord, the job is not complete unless we are part of a fellowship of believers, part of a local church, that is engaged in the **good works which He has prepared in advance for us to do.**

So again, let me ask the question, and, in fact, I suggest we pray about it: What kind of church does our Lord want us to be? We are going to take the time to answer this question in a series of Voice articles in the months ahead, and I welcome your responses during our Q & A time on Sunday morning.

The First Answer to the Question

To begin the dialogue, the Lord wants us to be a church that is the *pillar and foundation* of the truth!

If I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.
(I Timothy 3:15)

That means that the Lord wants us to be a church that focuses upon the Word of God. For Jesus

makes it very clear that, if we are going to stand for the truth, then we are going to stand upon the Word of God. For Jesus, in praying to the Father on our behalf, makes clear the connection between truth and the Word:

"Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth."
(John 17:17)

This means our music is going to be built upon Word-centered lyrics. This means I am going to preach a little bit longer than you might like. This

means our church-calendar is going to be filled with any number of opportunities to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord through the study of His Word. This also means that you should consider this focus should someone ask you, "What kind of church is VCC?" I hope that at least part of your answer is in keeping with our published Vision:

We are a fellowship that loves the Word and its application: we are a center of Bible teaching excellence such that the truths of God's Word are compelling; and we are a stronghold for orthodoxy with respect to the truths of the faith!

So in closing, consider this the first step in our reflection upon the Church in general, our local church in particular, and what the Lord wants us to become.

Best wishes for a blessed New Year!



This picture is taken from the livestream of our Christmas cantata, where the Word-centered lyrics were heard by 600 people in the sanctuary and many others through our livestream that allows people to view our services from home. Our music programs are a prime opportunity for outreach to people beyond our immediate congregation.

Vistoso Community Church

Telephone: 520-825-0652

e-mail: vistosocc@icloud.com

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday: 10 am-2 pm;

Friday: 8 am-12 noon

Pastor: Kevin Redig

Emergency: 520-403-4088

MISSIONS REPORT

ICARE, ONE OF VCC'S SUPPORTED MISSIONS

ICARE (International Crusade and Radio Evangelism, Inc), based in Yuma, was started over 50 years ago by Ray and Carol Williams at an orphanage in Northern Baja. From there they moved to the Mexicali Valley, doing tent meetings and encouraging local ministers and pastors. This evolved into the Williams becoming church planters, with 40 churches being planted over the years. Not one to be idle, Ray also had three radio programs reaching deep into Mexico. He also traveled throughout Mexico, Africa, Central America, Spain, and the US preaching and teaching. The Williams even had a Bible College in Mexicali for a period of time.

Carol became ICARE chief of operations after Ray was lost to cancer several years ago. Health issues prevent Carol from doing



much traveling, and she relies on a young man, Rene Bustamante, to carry out her goal of continuing to support

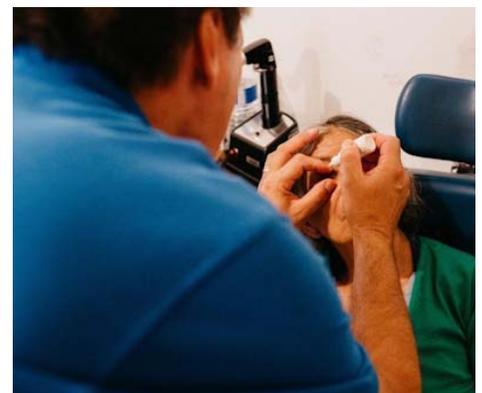
the ministries that ICARE has developed relationships with, both in Mexico and in the Yuma area. ICARE maintains a full schedule sponsoring medical, dental, Optometry and Ophthalmology, and Spay/Neuter clinics in Baja and Northern Mexico. The pictures in the right column are from some of ICARE's clinic ministries.

VCC supports ICARE in several

ways. Our Missions Committee members have made several trips to Yuma to deliver donated medical equipment and supplies such as wheel chairs, walkers, an examination table, and adult diapers. There is a collection basket for used eyeglasses in the Missions Corner of the fellowship hall. VCC collects these glasses and unexpired medications for ICARE use at the clinics in Mexico. Please give any unexpired prescription medicine you wish to donate to the Mission's Committee Chairman Mike Galyen or the Church office. In addition, our Missions Committee has also provided financial support for projects through our Point of Need donations.

But ICARE's biggest need is prayer. Please pray for the receptivity of the gospel, successful treatments during clinic sessions, and the safety of the volunteers on these up-coming clinics:

- February 1, 2020, Dental Clinic in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora
- March 12-14, 2020, Dental Clinic in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora
- April 22-26, 2020, Optometry/Ophthalmology Clinic in San Quintin, Baja California
- May 1-8, 2020, Spay/Neuter Clinic in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora
- May 9-16, 2020, Spay/Neuter Clinic Cuernavaca, Morelos/Taxco, Guerrero



NOTE: Birthdays and anniversaries are now printed with the calendar as Pages 5 and 6 of the newsletter!