



Looking in All the Wrong Places

Readings: Judges 2:11-15

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie . . . and served created things rather than the Creator. Romans 1:25

What did Israel do that was so wicked in God's eyes? "They forsook the Lord . . . and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them." Judges 2:17 describes this as committing adultery with other gods. Many other Bible passages also describe God's people that way. The people often preferred to "trade in" the God of their salvation for other "saviors."

Disloyalty, infidelity—"looking for love in all the wrong places"—brings harsh consequences: God turned Israel over to plunderers. God himself turned against them. God's response makes sense. If you abandon God to seek the life of doing what is right in your own eyes, you can expect those eyes to lead you astray, with inescapable consequences.

Paul describes the consequences of lives driven by base passions: "They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice" (Romans 1:29). Strangely enough, this debased mind seduces God's people again and again: "As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly" (Proverbs 26:11).

The Israelites didn't suffer because God had abandoned them; they suffered because God was looking after them. "The Lord disciplines those he loves" (Proverbs 3:12). It's as if God was saying to later generations, "Be careful what your eyes wish for; you may get it."

May the Spirit of Christ discipline our hearts to desire what is right in God's eyes.

Prayer

**O Lord, be gracious and deliver me from base desires,
for the sake of your steadfast love. Amen.**

Where did summer go?!

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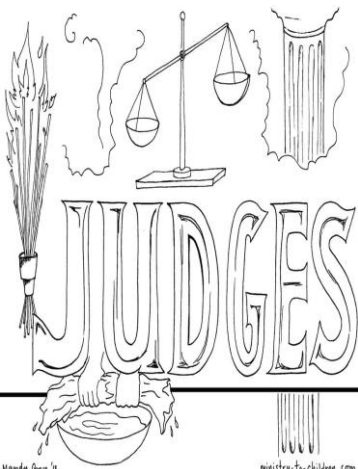
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Christ, not Caesar, Is Head of the Church



Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, which is pastored by influential theologian and author John MacArthur, announced that it would continue holding in-person services, saying state mandates restricting worship are an overstep of government authority and thus they have no duty to follow them. Pastor MacArthur argued in a blog post that "government officials have no right to interfere in ecclesiastical matters in a way that undermines or disregards the God-given authority of pastors and elders."

On July 13, California indefinitely closed churches— as well as restaurants, bars, fitness centers, hair salons, and barbershops — in at least 32 counties. A group of churches from the state also recently sued California Gov. Gavin Newsom after he instituted a ban on singing in churches as a way to curb the spread of the coronavirus. He also argued that because the church is by nature an assembly, any restrictions go against the nature of the church "in principle."

"As government policy moves further away from biblical principles, and as legal and political pressures against the church intensify, we must recognize that the Lord may be using these pressures for churches to remain closed indefinitely. How can the true church of Jesus Christ distinguish herself in such a hostile climate? There is only one way: bold allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ."

A Biblical Case for the Church's Duty to Remain Open

Christ is Lord of all. He is the one true head of the church (Ephesians 1:22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18). He is also King of kings—sovereign over every earthly authority (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16). Grace Community Church has always stood immovably on those biblical principles. As His people, we are subject to His will and commands as revealed in Scripture. Therefore, we cannot and will not acquiesce to a government-imposed moratorium on our weekly congregational worship or other regular corporate gatherings. Compliance would be disobedience to our Lord's clear commands.

Some will think such a firm statement is inexorably in conflict with the command to be subject to governing authorities laid out in Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2. Scripture does mandate careful, conscientious obedience to all governing authority, including kings, governors, employers, and their agents (in Peter's words, "not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable" [1 Peter 2:18]). Insofar as government authorities do not attempt to assert ecclesiastical authority or issue orders that forbid our obedience to God's law, their authority is to be obeyed whether we agree with their rulings or not. In other words, Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2 still bind the consciences of individual Christians. We are to obey our civil authorities as powers that God Himself has ordained.

However, while civil government is invested with divine authority to rule the state, neither of those texts (nor any other) grants civic rulers jurisdiction over the church. God has established three institutions within human society: the family, the state, and the church. Each institution has a sphere of authority with jurisdictional limits that must be respected. A father's authority is limited to his own family. Church leaders' authority (which is delegated to them by Christ) is limited to church matters. And government is specifically tasked with the oversight and protection of civic peace and well-being within the boundaries of a nation or community. *God has not granted civic rulers authority over the doctrine, practice, or polity of the church.* The biblical framework limits the authority of each institution to its specific jurisdiction. The church does not have the right to meddle in the affairs of individual families and ignore parental authority. Parents do not have authority to manage civil matters while circumventing government officials. And similarly, government officials have no right to interfere in ecclesiastical matters in a way that undermines or disregards the God-given authority of pastors and elders.

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When any one of the three institutions exceeds the bounds of its jurisdiction, it is the duty of the other institutions to curtail that overreach. Therefore, when any government official issues orders regulating worship (such as bans on singing, caps on attendance, or prohibitions against gatherings and services), he steps outside the legitimate bounds of his God-ordained authority as a civic official and arrogates to himself authority that God expressly grants only to the Lord Jesus Christ as sovereign over His Kingdom, which is the church. His rule is mediated to local churches through those pastors and elders who teach His Word (Matthew 16:18–19; 2 Timothy 3:16–4:2).

Therefore, in response to the recent state order requiring churches in California to limit or suspend all meetings indefinitely, the pastors and elders of Grace Community Church, inform their civic leaders that they have exceeded their legitimate jurisdiction, and faithfulness to Christ prohibits them from observing the restrictions they want to impose on our corporate worship services.

Said another way, it has never been the prerogative of civil government to order, modify, forbid, or mandate worship. When, how, and how often the church worships is not subject to Caesar. Caesar himself is subject to God. Jesus affirmed that principle when He told Pilate, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above” (John 19:11). And because Christ is head of the church, ecclesiastical matters pertain to His Kingdom, not Caesar’s. Jesus drew a stark distinction between those two kingdoms when He said, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Mark 12:17). Our Lord Himself always rendered to Caesar what was Caesar’s, but He never offered to Caesar what belongs solely to God.

Pastors and elders are the ones to whom Christ has given the duty and the right to exercise His spiritual authority in the church (1 Peter 5:1–4; Hebrews 13:7, 17)—and Scripture *alone* defines how and whom they are to serve (1 Corinthians 4:1–4). They have no duty to follow orders from a civil government attempting to regulate the worship or governance of the church. In fact, pastors who cede their Christ-delegated authority in the church to a civil ruler have abdicated their responsibility before their Lord and violated the God-ordained spheres of authority as much as the secular official who illegitimately imposes his authority upon the church.

Christ’s own authority is “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And [God the Father has] put all things in subjection under [Christ’s] feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:21–23).

Accordingly, the honor that we rightly owe our earthly governors and magistrates (Romans 13:7) does not include compliance when such officials attempt to subvert sound doctrine, corrupt biblical morality, exercise ecclesiastical authority, or supplant Christ as head of the church in any other way.

The biblical order is clear: Christ is Lord over Caesar, not vice versa. Christ, not Caesar, is head of the church. Conversely, the church does not in any sense rule the state. Again, these are distinct kingdoms, and Christ is sovereign over both. Neither church nor state has any higher authority than that of Christ Himself, who declared, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18). It is one of those unalienable rights granted solely by God, who ordained human government and establishes both the extent and the limitations of the state’s authority (Romans 13:1–7). Our argument therefore is purposely not grounded in the First Amendment; it is based on the same biblical principles that the Amendment itself is founded upon. The exercise of true religion is a divine duty given to men and women created in God’s image (Genesis 1:26–27; Acts 4:18–20; 5:29; cf. (Matthew 22:16–22)). In other words, freedom of worship is a command of God, not a privilege granted by the state.

(continued page 4)

In this issue:

Proper Etiquette with BOB

15 TYPES OF BUSINESS ETIQUETTE continued:

Last time we talked about:

1. When in doubt, introduce others.
2. A handshake is still the professional standard.
3. Always say “please” and “thank you.”
4. Do not interrupt.



Watch your language, Verbal and Written

Communications are often much less formal than in times past, but be careful to choose your words wisely. Of course, derogatory, rude or offensive language is unacceptable, but so is slang. While it may be commonplace in our society, it is never acceptable in a professional atmosphere.

Double check before you send

While we are talking about communication, always check your e-mail for spelling and grammar errors. Since the advent of spell check, there is no excuse for typos. Also, do a quick readthrough to make sure the meaning and tone are what you wish to convey, “no smileys please.”

Don’t walk into someone’s office unannounced

It is disrespectful to assume that you have a right to interrupt other people’s work. Knock on the door or say hello if it’s open and ask if it’s a good time to talk. If perhaps the discussion is going to take more than a few minutes, it’s a good idea to call or e-mail and schedule a convenient time for each of you.

to be continued next time...

Check out the Woodville Community Church library!

There are many new DVDs in our library and a lot of new books!

UNPLANNED

What She Saw Changed Everything

COMING HOME
What Is the True
Measure of a man?

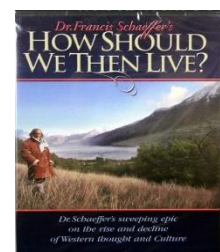


Francis Schaeffer’s DVDs

How Should We Then Live?

&

Whatever Happened to the Human Race?





August 2020



Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:45 a.m.

Tuesday

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

7:00 a.m.

Wednesday

NIGHT SERVICE

6:30 p.m.

3rd Monday

BOARD MEETING

6:00 p.m.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Greeters for August: <i>Don & Susan Foust</i>						1 Elders' Prayer Time
2 WORSHIP SERVICE	3	4 Men's Bible Study	5 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	6 Ladies Bible study Praise Team practice	7	8 Elders' Prayer Time
9 WORSHIP SERVICE	10	11 Men's Bible Study	12 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	13 Ladies Bible study Praise Team practice	14	15 Elders' Prayer Time
16 WORSHIP SERVICE	17 Board Meeting	18 Men's Bible Study	19 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	20 Ladies Bible study Praise Team practice	21	22 Elders' Prayer Time
23 WORSHIP SERVICE	24	25 Men's Bible Study	26 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	27 Ladies Bible study Praise Team practice	28	29 Elders' Prayer Time
30 WORSHIP SERVICE	31					



August Birthdays

1st Linda Berkompas
12th Noah Cook
12th Pete Alley
16th Jenna Minor
16th Duke VanderArk

16th Scott Carter
22nd Elliana Beckwith
23rd Betty Sutton
24th Joyce Patrick
30th Tom Vanlaan



August Anniversaries

3rd Don & Susan Foust
5th Randy & Amanda Hahn
7th Paul & Pattie Morse
14th Bill & Sylvia Edwards
22nd Gary & Jackie Teja
26th Bill & Sue Walta
28th Al & Karen White
28th Bob & Marge Shoemaker
30th Larry & Joyce Patrick (63 years)



September 2020

Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 a.m.

Tuesday

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
7:00 a.m.

Wednesday

AWANA
6:00 p.m.

NIGHT SERVICE
6:30 p.m.

3rd Monday

BOARD MEETING
6:00 p.m.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Greeters for September: Phil & Chris Rottman		1 Men's Bible Study	2 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	3 Ladies Bible Study Praise Team practice	4	5 Elders' Prayer Time
6 WORSHIP SERVICE	7	8 Men's Bible Study	9 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	10 Ladies Bible Study Praise Team practice	11	12 Elders' Prayer Time
13 WORSHIP SERVICE	14	15 Men's Bible Study	16 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	17 Ladies Bible Study Praise Team practice	18	19 Elders' Prayer Time
20 WORSHIP SERVICE	21 Board Meeting	22 Men's Bible Study	23 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	24 Ladies Bible Study Praise Team practice	25	26 Elders' Prayer Time
27 WORSHIP SERVICE	28	29 Men's Bible Study	30 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE			



September Anniversaries

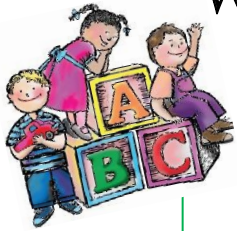
- 7th Leon & Barb Atkins
- 8th Jason Ronica Garrod
- 8th Bill & Amy Hopp
- 12th John & DaleAnn Dudeck
- 13th Vic & Linda Berkompas (51 years)
- 22nd Tim & Renee Cook
- 23rd David & Lynda Kolehouse

Items on this calendar
are subject to change

September Birthdays

- 2nd Ann Workman
- 6th Barb Atkins
- 7th Brad Cook
- 11th Alayna Cook
- 11th Larry Patrick
- 20th Dennis Helmus
- 21st John Dudeck
- 22nd Nancy Eveland
- 22nd Polly Byers
- 24th Alicia Beckwith
- 25th Lorie Kellogg
- 26th Eric Morgan
- 27th Sue Walta

WOODVILLE CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE



August

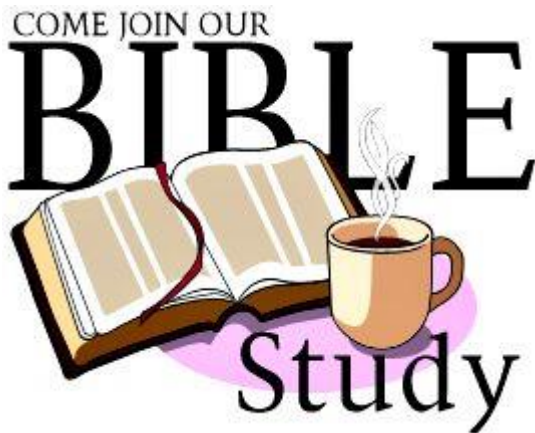
2nd Nancy Eveland & Barb Knight
9th Jenna Minor & Sue Frens
16th Lynda Kolehouse & Norita Cooley
23rd Sue Frens & Jayden Frens
30th Adriana Beckwith & Nancy Eveland

September

6th Brittany Hurlbert & Sue Frens
13th Sharen Franklin & Betty Sutton
20th Jackie Teja & Nancy Rottier
27th Renee Cook & Marilyn Davis

Thank you, ladies, for your service in caring for these little ones.

If you are unable to serve on the date that you are scheduled please contact Sue Frens 231-245-4034 as soon as possible.



Ladies...

We are off to a great start of the Ladies Bible Study on Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. We have been studying wisdom in the Book of Proverbs. 16-18 ladies gather each week to study God's Word and to fellowship together. It is an exciting time, so if you have not had a chance to join us you can jump right in anytime. We would love to have you join us.

Food For Thought...

Pesto Zucchini Noodles with Roasted Tomatoes and Grilled Chicken

Prep Time:10 minutes Cook Time:15 minutes Total Time:25 minutes Servings: 4

A light and tasty summery zucchini noodle pasta tossed in fresh basil pesto with roasted tomatoes and grilled chicken.

Ingredients:

- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, cut in half 1 tablespoon oil salt and pepper to taste
- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts salt and pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon oil 4 medium zucchini, sliced into noodles
- 1/2 cup basil pesto

Directions:

1. Toss the tomatoes in the oil, salt and pepper, place on a baking sheet in a single layer and roast in a preheated 400F/200C oven until they start to caramelize, about 10-15 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, season the chicken with salt and pepper to taste, grill it over medium-high heat, about 3-5 minutes per side, before setting aside to rest and slicing it.
3. Heat the oil in a pan over medium-high heat, add the zucchini noodles and cook until just tender, about 1-2 minutes, stirring.
4. Toss the zucchini noodles, tomatoes and chicken in the pesto and enjoy!



Mexican Street Corn Nachos

Prep Time:10 minutes Cook Time:15 minutes Total Time:25 minutes Servings: 8

All the flavors of Mexican style street corn in nacho form with grilled or charred corn, mayo, feta, cilantro, cayenne and lime juice along with the nachos and a creamy melted Monterey Jack cheese sauce!

Ingredients

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 2 tablespoons butter | 1 (14 ounce) bag tortilla chips |
| 4 cups corn, fresh or frozen | 1/4 cup cotija or feta, crumbles |
| 2 tablespoons mayonnaise | 2 tablespoons cream or sour cream |
| 1 tablespoon cornstarch | 2 tablespoons cilantro, chopped |
| 1 cup heavy/whipping cream, half and half or milk | cayenne to taste |
| 8 ounces Monterey Jack cheese, shredded | 1 lime, cut into wedges |

Directions

1. Melt the butter in a heavy bottomed pan over medium high heat, add the corn and let it sit until it starts to char a bit, mix it up and let it start to char a bit again before removing from heat and mixing in the mayo.
2. Mix the cornstarch into the cream, bring just to a simmer, reduce the heat and mix in the cheese until it melts.
3. Place the nachos on a serving dish, pour on the cheese, top with the corn, cotija, creme, cilantro and cayenne and hit everything with a few squirts of lime juice!

Option: Use grilled corn off the cob!



"...A merry heart doeth good like a medicine..."



really just spent two minutes
like "why would you shame
someone with tuna?"



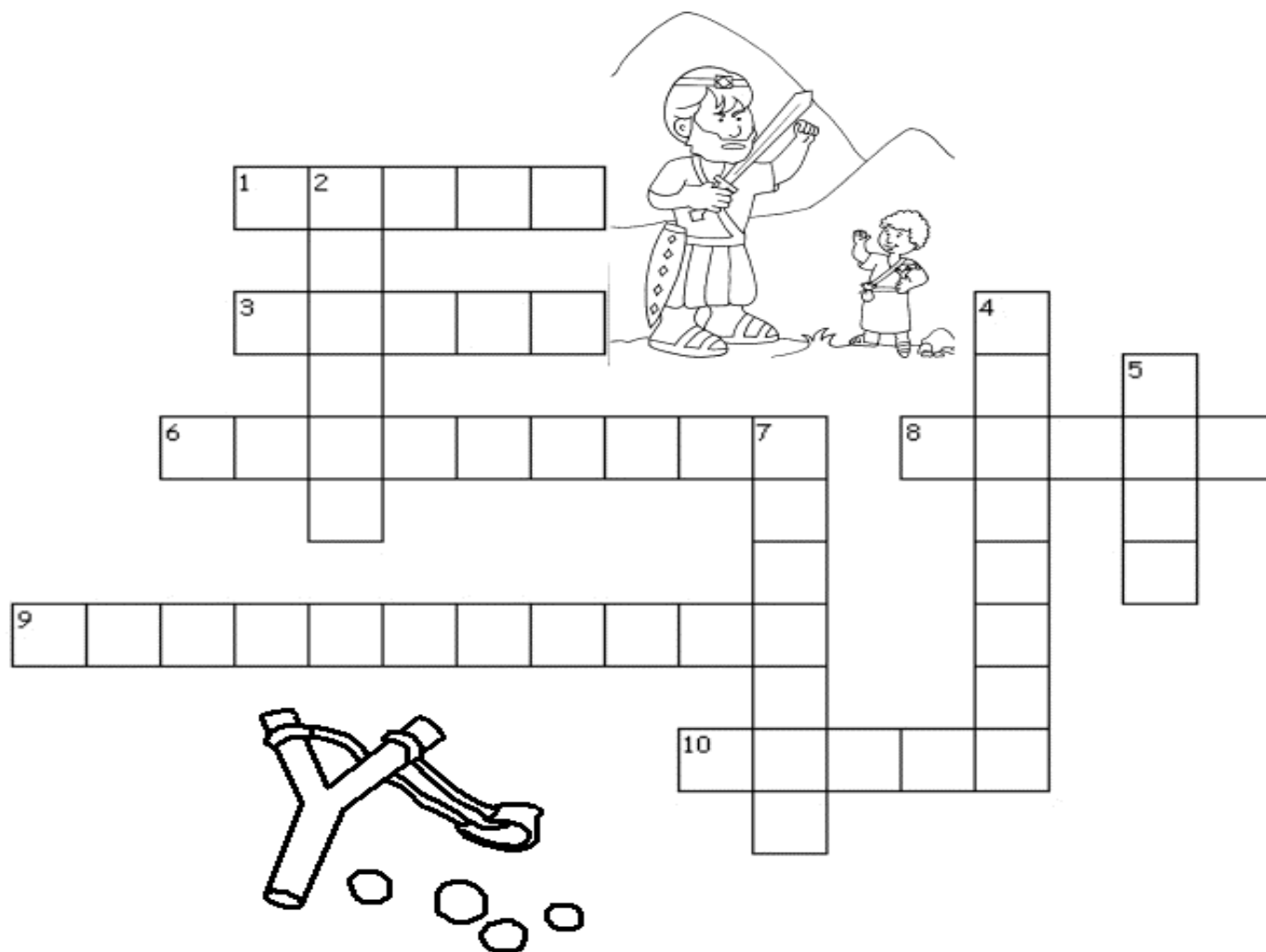
Bible Riddle...

**Othniel, the first judge in Israel's history,
was whose nephew?**

answer on last page

ACTIVITY PAGE

David and Goliath Crossword



Across

1. Samuel anointed this young shepherd to be king someday.
3. David chose not to wear this it, was too heavy and he trusted God.
6. This was David's main weapon for defeating Goliath.
8. While David would watch the sheep he would make this.
9. The Israelites didn't get along with these 'giant' people.
10. God didn't choose a king by his size but by his ____.

Down

2. All the men were ____ to fight the giant Goliath.
4. Out of eight brothers, David was the ____.
5. This is the number of smooth stones David picked out to fight Goliath.
7. David wasn't afraid to fight the giant because he ____ God to keep him safe.