

☆ Shepherd's Voice ☆

Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter



Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

The Minister's Musings

Bro. Archie Miller

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March Madness is a phenomenon that grips the national sports psyche from the second week of March through the first week of April. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournaments are an American tradition that sends millions of fans into a synchronized frenzy each year. It's this chaos that gives the tournament its March Madness nickname. March Madness is the concentrated hype of 68 teams vying for college basketball's biggest prize. It's the last-second, buzzer-beating baskets, the euphoria of winning to play another day and the agony of losing and going home. It's all based on who can score the most points.

Let's see how that could "*play*" out here at Orcutt Christian Church. Who will score the most points? Calculate your score on the following:

Praying for five minutes twice a day:	50 Points.
Reading your Bible Chronologically every day:	40 Points.
Inviting someone to worship:	30 Points.
Participating in worship:	30 Points.
Offering to help a elderly church member with some much needed service:	30 Points.
Attending Sunday Bible Study:	20 Points.
Attending Thursday Bible Study:	20 Points.
Giving a single mom a break:	10 Points.
Reading for pleasure every day for 20 minutes:	5 Points.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (NASB)

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

The Thoughts of Elder* Ed Saunders

The battle is often long, but the victories are sweet. We have had our battles, but we have prevailed as a small assembly of God's people. We have lost some of our members as they ended their earthly journey. We hope one day to see them again in heaven.

God has NEVER promised that we would have a live of ease. But he did promise to be with us, and would NEVER forsake us.



Hebrews 13:5-6 (NASB)

⁵ ... He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," ⁶ so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER

God has always been with HIS people...take the story of Gideon, who was in a battle against a much larger foe [*Judges 6-8*]. God told Gideon to pick a group of men who were not afraid, and told the others to go home. Gideon ended up with 300 men and 300 torches, which they lit. The enemy thought they were much larger in number, and ended up destroying their own army.

I am humbled to be a Elder here in Orcutt Christian Church. God continues to bless us as we strive to serve Him here in this small congregation. We have great and good people, and a loving and friendly church that people enjoy meeting with. We know God is with us and continues to show His love upon us.



* Three New Testament words refer to the same office: Bishop, Elder, Pastor.