

☆ Shepherd's Voice ☆

Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter



Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

The Minister's Musings

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May 2018



PENTECOST

It was a Sunday, not unlike every previous Sunday. Saturday had been a day off from work. Even the oxen and horses had the the day off because Saturday is always a Sabbath, a day of rest and worship. Now we are preparing for our annual festival that goes way back to our roots. Moses named is first in Exodus 23:16 as "the feast of harvest," and again in Exodus 34:22 as "the day of the firstfruits." Moses put it this way:

Numbers 28:26 (CJB)

²⁶ On the day of the firstfruits, when you bring a new grain offering to ADONAI in your feast of Shavu'ot, you are to have a holy convocation; do not do any kind of ordinary work;

From the sixteenth of the month of Nisan (the second day of the Passover), seven complete weeks, i.e., forty-nine days, were to be reckoned, and this feast was held on the fiftieth day, which always falls on Sunday. In Leviticus 23:15-19 and Numbers 28:27-29, Moses told us the manner in which it was to be kept. Besides the sacrifices prescribed for the occasion, every one was to bring to the Lord his "tribute of a free-will offering" (Deuteronomy 16:9-11). The purpose of this feast was to commemorate the completion of the grain harvest. Its distinguishing feature was the offering of "two leavened loaves" made from the new corn of the completed harvest, which, with two lambs, were waved before the Lord as a thank offering.

So we were hanging out around the Great Temple in Jerusalem, when we first heard the tornado. At least that is what it sounded like. With us were those men who had followed the apostate Jesus. The sound was so loud that it captured our attention and we stopped what we were doing. Then, to our total amazement, fire came out of the sky, divided it's self, and seemingly engulfed the 12 men whom Jesus called His Apostles. They began speaking, and even though there many, many nations represented in our gathering, we all could understand them in our native language.

And when Peter convinced us that WE had murdered He whom we thought was just another apostate Jew, and these miraculous signs demonstrated Peter was right, 3.000 of us men made our confession of faith, repented our our sins, and the 12 immersed us in the nearby pool into the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, our long expected Messiah.

From that day on, the Day of Pentecost had special meaning to we who now called ourselves Christians, and considered ourselves Disciples of the Master.

We would love for you to be numbered with us. Will you not follow the command of Jesus and do what He Himself told us to do? Want to know more? Ask anyone at OCC.

Thoughts of The Elders

Faith Only Theology and Revivalism

Acts 2:38 (GW)

³⁸ Peter answered them, “All of you must turn to God and change the way you think and act, and each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins will be forgiven. Then you will receive the Holy Spirit as a gift.

The Revivalist Movement began around the early 1800s, mainly through the teachings of a man named Charles Finney. This movement has deceived many people into thinking that they can simply repeat a formula prayer, or go forward in a meeting, and they can be guaranteed eternal life on that basis, and it doesn't matter how they live after that point.

The Revivalist Movement was a great deception. In those days, the teachings of this movement caused thousands of people in certain parts of the United States to base their hope for eternal life not on true faith in Christ, but on the fact that they went forward in a meeting and repeated a formula prayer, called “The Sinner’s Prayer.”

The Billy Graham Crusade version is--

“Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior.”

Other evangelists who came preaching the true Biblical way of salvation (Faith, Repentance, Confession, Baptism, Living a holy way of life), found that these people had been, in effect, inoculated against the Gospel. When they were presented with the Gospel, these people said, in effect, *“Oh, I don’t need that. I went forward in a meeting twenty years ago. I have my eternal life insurance policy. It doesn’t matter that I haven’t been inside the doors of a church since that day. It doesn’t matter that I’m still living the same kind of sinful life I lived before. I have my free ticket to Heaven.”*

And we find people saying the same thing even today.

Revelation 3:19 (GW)

¹⁹ I correct and discipline everyone I love. Take this seriously, and change the way you think and act.