

☆ 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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It's Harvest Time

The 2018 Fall Harvest Moon occurred September 25th. The full moon which is seen in the sky closest to the autumnal equinox is known as the harvest moon. The autumnal equinox occurs when the sun appears directly overhead at noon along the equator, and this year it took place over the weekend on Saturday. The occasion marks the first day of fall in the Northern Hemisphere. But why is this particular full moon referred to as the "harvest" moon? It usually coincides with the fall harvest in certain regions and goes back to the 1700's. Put simply, a bright, full moon means more light for late night farm work, which reminds me we need to work while there is yet light.

Rick Warren, founder and senior pastor of Saddleback Church near Los Angeles said, "If you want God's blessings, you must care about what God cares about the most. And that is people. How much does God care about them? Look at the cross. Saddleback has 40,000 meeting in 8,200 small groups. But the question isn't how big the church should grow, it's how many should be left behind. The church that doesn't want to grow is saying to its community you can go to hell."

Jesus once said **Matthew 9:37-38 (NASB)** ³⁷ *Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸ "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."* While the imagery of a "great harvest" envisions abundant potentiality, concern is raised by the few workers available to take advantage of the situation. The disciples ought to be equally concerned, and are called to specific action, i.e. prayer. No longer can the concern for the multitudes be Jesus' alone; the disciples must also identify personally with the plight of the crowds. As, I read the NT, I am convinced that you and I are the currently designated harvesters

Every human being is a child of God, created in His image. Some of us are like the Prodigal Son, and we have gone our own way, and done our own thing. Some of us are far, far away from our Father's dining table. Our choices have distorted our image, so that it is impossible to see God's image in us. When that happens, we have become adopted by God's adversary. Jesus speaks of this spiritual adoption in **John 8:44 (NASB)** ⁴⁴ *You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **John 10:10 (NASB)** ¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**

As one looks at the world today there is no question that there is a problem. And Jesus says the problem is sin. For a sin sick world there is only one cure, Jesus!

There are Fall Harvest Festivals going on across the United States to celebrate a bountiful crop. Who will you be celebrating with that you have brought into the household of God? **John 4:35 (NASB)**

³⁵ *Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.*

Elder Ed Saunders

Thoughts on Serving Christ

We have a short span to live on the earth according to Ecclesiastes chapter 3. **Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)** *¹ To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*



We are born and we will all die in our time. The older we get the more we come to realize how short life is. No matter what we do in life, it will soon be forgotten. But what we do for Christ will last for ever. What ever we plant will one day be gone. What we build will decay. The glories we have will fade. There will be many trials and times of weeping. Our garments we mend will wear out and be cast away.

We ask ourselves what profit did our works do. Solomon said all is vanity. Everything is beautiful in its time. And we will never fully understand the things of God. According to Solomon in **Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 (KJV)** *¹² I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. ¹³ And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.*

There is no better good we can do than to serve our Lord and Savior with a cheerful and willing heart.

Charles Thomas Studd, often known as C. T. Studd (2 December 1860 – 16 July 1931), was a British missionary to the Congo. He left us a poem that is often quoted:

Two little lines I heard one day,
Traveling along life' busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart,
And from my mind would not depart;
**Only one life, 'will soon be past,
Only what' done for Christ will last.**

Only one life, yes only one,
Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in 'hat day 'my Lord to meet,
And stand before His Judgement seat;
**Only one life, 'will soon be past,
Only what' done for Christ will last.**