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Prayer Meeting
Sunday
June 4
From 5:00-6:00pm
Here at the church.
Come pray together
as a church family

Summer Fellowship

By Luke Kirkendall

When the summer arrives, our schedules tend to go haywire; children are out of school, the weather changes and vacations abound. The life of the church changes somewhat as well. There is VBS, youth camp and children's camp. These are weeklong events that take much of our congregation away for a week. Because of these changes our midweek study takes a summer break and returns in August.

Don't let these changes rob you of fellowship and spiritual growth. Sunday worship services should already be a priority in your life. During this period of the year it should be an *even greater priority*. Plan your weeks and your vacations with Sunday in mind.

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Not only is Sunday worship a blessing to your own soul, but it's encouraging to the other members of Southwest. The conversations, prayers and fellowship are beneficial to each other. When you are not here, we suffer.

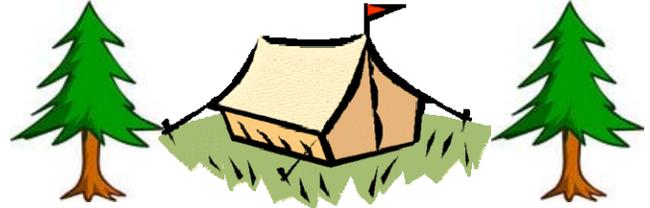
Since our Bible studies are on pause over the summer, Christian's University is even more important. Each Sunday, following the worship service, from 10:45-11:45am, one of the Elders teaches from our belief statement. I cannot stress how much of a blessing these classes are. The topics are relevant, but also explain in greater detail why Southwest believes and acts the way she does.

In short, you need to be here on Sunday and be a part of Christian's University all year round, and especially over the summer!

Gospel to the Valley

This is just a friendly reminder that we knock on doors each month to share the Gospel and invite people to church. We are almost done with our first neighborhood! Please be sure not to miss our adventure on *Saturday, June 17*. We meet at the church at 9:30am and work in teams as we walk the neighborhood. Please see Richard LaPorte if you have any questions or if you would like to join one of our teams!

HIKE ON OVER

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, June 3,
8:00 a.m.

All men are invited to a special breakfast, hosted by the ladies. There will be good food, great fun (including prizes), awesome fellowship, and amazing teaching!

False Teachers and Itching Ears

Written by Richard LaPorte

Do you ever wonder why there are so many false religions and why so many people are deceived and trapped in them? Why are so many people drawn to them? How about false teachers inside of "Christian" Churches? Why do so many people attend churches that avoid, ignore, distort, change or flat-out deny essential doctrines of the Christian faith?

Many times people identify with a certain religion simply because that's what they were raised to know and believe. It's kind of easy to understand why the Muslim who grew up in a Muslim home with Muslim parents and grandparents, believes his faith is correct. Likewise, for every other religion (ie: Catholicism, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Judaism, Scientology, etc...).

But what is it that keeps people in those religious systems? What is the appeal of them? First of all, we need to understand that every human being has a knowledge of God and also has an understanding that he is accountable to God (Psalm 19, Romans 1 & 2). People instinctively know that they are at odds with God and need to be reconciled to Him. Even though the prophets, the Scriptures

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False Teachers and Itching Ears

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and Jesus (Hebrews 1) have told people about God and themselves, people don't like what they are told. People don't like to hear that they aren't good people (Romans 3). They don't like to hear that they can't earn salvation (Ephesians 2). And they don't like to hear that the only way to God is through Jesus, the Son of God (John 14).

So, false religious systems start and false prophets tell people they know the "right" way to God (see Jeremiah). They falsely tell people things like: God is not angry at sin, there isn't a future judgment, or God only wants you to be prosperous, etc. They give people rules to follow, requirements to fulfill, lists of things to do and not do, and even how much money they need to give to gain God's favor. Often, the leader or the false teacher is living and extravagant lifestyle which causes people to think they will also have that lifestyle if they obey all the rules. People get trapped because they never complete the lists or they aren't prospering as promised.

2 Peter 2:1

"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies."

They might even have outrageous doctrines and beliefs like the Mormon belief of men becoming god and having their own universe. But, because they seemingly have high moral standards and are very family oriented, many people are drawn to them, in spite of the heresies.

Inside of "Christian" churches, false teachers might seem to just have a slightly different interpretation of certain doctrines, when in effect, they are denying the Biblical doctrine of salvation by **Grace Alone, by Faith Alone, in Jesus Alone!** They might talk about the grace of God and the sacrifice of Jesus, but always in a superficial way. They effectually teach people not to be concerned with their sin as long as they have said the prayer, have been baptized, put a bumper sticker on their car, use the right Christian phrases, or give enough money. People are never encouraged or expected to go deeper in their faith. People flock to this form of religion because it is easy and they're not challenged or confronted by Biblical truths. **They are assured of their salvation based on things they have done and on the false promise of God's universal love and wonderful plan for their life, instead of their reliance on what Jesus has done.** And this is exactly what they want to hear.

2 Timothy 4:3-4

"For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."

False religions and cults entice people with religious ceremony and pageantry, and promote works-righteousness doctrines because that's exactly what people want.

Even in a church, when someone tells you what **you need to do to be saved, they are denying salvation by grace and promoting salvation by works.** Even if this seems like a subtle difference, it is in fact a damning difference.

"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed."

Galatians 1:8



Family Camp July 28-30

This is a church tradition that gets our church families together for a whole weekend! We would love for you to set aside this small weekend in the summer to come join us as we pray, learn, worship, eat and play together. Everyone is welcome. We have our own reserved space at Lake Hemet. It is an amazing thing to see the children play, run around, set up tents and not get yelled at for being a little crazy! This weekend gives us time to hear messages from God's Word, reflect on what we have heard and worship together. We can have real and deep discussions about our faith because we are away from the world and its pull. This is also a unique way to get to know some other people in our church. Won't you come and join us! Put the date on your calendar now. More details are coming soon, so stay tuned!

Psalm 145:1-3 ESV

*"I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD,
and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable."*

Prayer Corner

Please be in prayer for some of our specific summer needs . . .

- VBS
- Mall Evangelism and Gospel to the Valley
- Student Promotions
- Children and Youth Summer Camps
- Prayer Meetings
- Family Camp
- Wednesday night Bible Study break and start up again August 16
- Elders/Leadership/Teaching
- Christian's University
- Special Events
- Congregational Meeting