

Prayer List

Gene
Veda
Judy
The Williams' Family
Ophelia

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 9:50 a.m.
Assembly 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Pinole Tidings

www.pinolechurchofchrist.com

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This Week's Question:

What boo compares the power of jealousy to the power of the grave?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Nicodemus - John 19:39

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Seek the Lord

Phil T. Arnold

The story is told of a preacher's attempt to confront a sinner point blank simply by asking, "Have you found God?" To this the clever but unwilling object of the preacher's efforts responded with mock surprise, "Why, I didn't know He was lost!" Such a response may have contained wit, but it was certainly lacking in wisdom. The search for God is life's greatest and most important adventure. Its greatness is seen in its object, our Creator, the "one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:6). Its importance is seen in the fact that it is not God, but man, who is lost, without hope and without God in this world (Isaiah 53:6; Ephesians 2:12).

The words of Jeremiah are still applicable to all when he said, "For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water" (Jeremiah 2:13). We often dismiss God and His wisdom and turn "every one, to his own way" only to suffer the consequences individually and collectively in chaos, conflict and the absence of joy God intended for us. We strive to grasp all but have

nothing; we seek to live life to its fullest but are left empty. This is the result of failing to find God in our lives.

There are three helpful concepts of God we would bring to your attention that we think will be inspiring and helpful to our daily lives in our search for Him. First of all, Jesus said that “God is Spirit” (John 4:24). When we grasp this truth we can begin to see the beauty, goodness, and value of things spiritual as opposed to the fleeting material world (Matthew 16:26; 2 Corinthians 4:16–18). God is not found on the physical but on the spiritual plane; we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Since “God is Spirit” and “a spirit does not have flesh and bones” (Luke 24:39), some may feel this presents a difficulty in finding God. It does not, for Paul said that He who “gives to all life, breath, and all things” is “not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:25–28).

God not only is a spirit but we are told by the apostle whom Jesus loved that “God is light” (1 John 1:5). God is without sin and the One Who enlightens His creation (1 Peter 1:15–16; Acts 26:18). We can see that we live in a world of reason and revelation in which God intends for righteousness to ultimately be victorious. We are not left to grope for Him and His way, but are given direction and guidance. This way of God is right (Romans 1:16–17). Therefore, God is not found on an emotional level of blind faith but on an intellectual basis; He has revealed Himself and His righteousness through His holy word (1 Corinthians 2:10–13; Ephesians 3:3–5).

The reason God put forth the effort to provide man with knowledge of Himself and direction for godly living is seen in the fact that John also wrote that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). We can trust this gracious truth and know that all is well. He cares for us and is concerned about what concerns us (1 Peter 5:7). He has provided and will continue to provide for our every need, both physically and spiritually (James 1:17–

18; Matthew 6:25–33; John 3:16). He has set in motion goodness and love powerful enough to combat the selfishness and cynicism that Satan has loosed on the world. Thus, God is not found by the serving of self, but in the service of others and in the doing of His will rather than our own (1 John 4:20–5:3).

Seek God by walking after the Spirit and not the flesh—for “God is Spirit” (Galatians 5:16ff; John 4:24). Find God through the illuminating wisdom of God’s revelation of righteousness rather than through a pursuit of your own wisdom—for “God is light” (1 John 1:5–7). Discover God in the giving of self and reciprocating the great love which He has shown instead of serving self—for “God is love” (1 John 4:8–9; 5:3).

Much has been written in our time about “finding one’s self.” This cannot be done, however, without finding one’s Sustainer and Creator, God. And in finding God one truly finds himself and everything worthwhile. To find God is to have one’s life made richer and happier than all else could make it. To know His power is to have the strength and courage to live without fear. To follow His guidance is to give purpose and confidence to each step that we take. To feel His love is to have a quiet and peaceful mind filled with the joy of forgiveness and the hope of heaven. Truly, to find God is to find it all.

“Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord’s anger” (Zephaniah 2:3).