

# Mt Vernon Church of Christ

120 N Mt Vernon Ave ~ Prescott, AZ 86301 ~ (928)445-5190

mountvernonchurch.org ~ scripturessay.com

mtvernonchurch@cableone.net



# Mt Vernon Messenger

## September 4, 2016

### “REASON TO BELIEVE”

#### Did the writers of the Gospels invent Jesus? Did Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John create Him?

The first four books of the New Testament were written before the end of the first century, a time of extreme persecution against the Christian faith. The writings of Matthew, Mark, and Luke were completed and widely circulated before the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. The book of John was written in close proximity to them, yet many subscribe to the view that it was written about

A.D. 94. It is well known who and what those writers were. They were not highly educated, nor were they theologians or historians. They were men devoid of any semblance of intellectual or literary training or skill. While not one of them would qualify as a literary genius, they did that which scholars and writers of renown have never been able to do. They penned biographies of a perfectly sinless man, records of the most attractive and appealing life ever lived; the most original and fascinating personality in all of human history. Their four-fold narrative details the greatest life ever lived. Those narratives cannot be explained on literary grounds. It is inconceivable that those four men, given their backgrounds, lack of education, lack of genius, could have created the person or character of Jesus. Nothing exists in literature like the Gospel narratives. Each book is a masterpiece - a simple and uncomplicated portrait of the greatest personality of the ages. Additionally, each is written in fresh and an original fashion. Undeniably, each is a flawless account of the flawless life of the man from Nazareth, Jesus the Christ. There is an undeniable originality that characterizes Jesus of Nazareth that is contained in the details of His life; details set forth in the large and small details of His life.

"The intriguing manner of the life of Jesus while holy, harmless, and pure; noble and kind, is also the most natural and unaffected. The conduct of Jesus was without idiosyncrasy. There was nothing out of balance or improper; nothing odd or needful of correcting. . . . The remarkable thing is not simply that these attributes and acts are represented as His, but that they are conceived as quite natural to Him, as not making Him anomalous (strange--rb.) or abnormal, but as leaving Him simple and rational and real - a person who never ceased to be Himself, who had no double consciousness and played no double part, but expressed Himself in history according to the nature He had and the truth within Him. There is nothing quite like this in literature, no miraculous person who is so truly natural, so continuously one and the same; and no writers of the miraculous who so feel that they are dealing with what is normal and regular through and through. These are things which have more than a psychological interest, they speak of man who have stood face to face with reality, and are conscious of only describing what they saw." (Fairbairn, The Philosophy of the Christian Religion, p. 303)

It is more inconceivable that several man should have united to forge each of the Gospels than that a single person should have been the subject of them. Each of these Gospels bear marks of truth so great, so striking, so perfect, so incomparable, that as inventors of such they would be more astounding than the subject.

"It is no use to say that Christ, as exhibited in the Gospels is not historical, and that we know not how much of what is admirable has been superadded by the traditions of His followers. Who among His disciples or among their proselytes was capable of inventing the sayings of Jesus, or of imagining the life and character revealed in the Gospels? Certainly not the fishermen of Galilee; as certainly not St. Paul, whose character and idiosyncrasies were if a totally different sort; still less the early Christian writers, in whom nothing is more evident than that all the good in them was derived, as they always professed it was derived from the higher source." (Mill, Essays on Nature p.253-255)

"It is inconceivable that the Evangelic Jesus should be a creation, whether of some mastermind or of the myth-forming genius of the primitive church. Humanity cannot transcend itself. Surely skepticism has its credulity no less than faith when it is gravely maintained that so radiant an ideal arose 'among nearly this most degraded generation of the most narrow-minded race that the world has ever known, and made it the birthplace of a new earth.' The mere fact that there dawned on the world, and that in a land barren of wisdom and an age morally bankrupt, an ideal which has been the wonder and inspiration of mankind for more than sixty generations, is an irrefragable evidence that is not mere ideal, but a historic fact. The Divine Life which the evangelists portray must have been actually lived out in the Evangelic Jesus, Himself the supreme evidence at once of the historicity of the evangelic narratives and of His own Divinity." (Religion and the Modern Mind, David Smith, "The Divinity of Jesus." p. 176)

"Jesus Himself as He appears in the Gospels, and for the very reason that He is so manifestly above the heads of His reporters there, is, in the jargon of modern philosophy, an absolute; we cannot explain Him, and cannot get behind Him and above Him, cannot command Him." (Matthew Arnold, Preface to Literature and Dogma)

If Jesus is the invention; the product of the writers of the New Testament, we ought to bow down and worship them, for they in their work have accomplished the impossible! The unanswerable argument is that Jesus is the Son of God, not the invention of men!

- Ronald Bryant

### Welcome Guest

We are glad you chose to worship with us. Please fill out a visitor's card so we have a record of your visit. Come and worship with us again and often.

### Schedule of Services

Pioneer Home Service 8:30 am  
Bible Class 9:30 am  
Morning Worship 10:30 am  
Evening Worship 6:00 pm  
Wed. Ladies Class 12:00 pm  
(at church building)  
Wed. Evening Study 7:00 pm  
Fri. Ladies Class 10:00 am  
(at church building)

### Minister Ronald Bryant

#### Shepherds

Otto Buehler Morris Guest  
Gordon Gower Glenn Kenner  
Larry Miller

#### Deacons

Don Dillahunty Rick Pinney  
Spencer Guest Eddie Redman  
Bob Justice Larry Sanderson  
Troy Trammell

### Church Statistics

OFFICE HOURS: M-Th 8am to 1pm

ATTENDANCE  
Bible Class 75  
Worship Assembly 125  
Pioneer Home 18  
FINANCES  
Weekly Budget \$4018  
Weekly Contribution \$4223

### Pioneer Home Schedule

Date	Lesson	Song Leader
Sept. 11	Troy Trammell	Morris Guest

### Greeters for September

Jean Kantu & Charlyene DeRonde

### FAITH - THE HEART AND LIFE TAKEN CAPTIVE BY THE LORD

Some regard faith and knowledge as mutually exclusive. It is to be insisted that faith is an essential part of knowledge and not a substitute for it. Faith is based upon reliable evidence and testimony, it is our response that which we know. Faith is trusting and relying upon the evidence and testimony that we possess. The examination of testimony and evidence facilitates the growth of knowledge, and helps clarify perspective and conviction, i.e., one's personal faith.

Faith does not give reality to the unseen, nor does it manufacture certainty; it lays hold of what is evident and what is verifiable. Biblical faith lays hold of that which God has not only revealed but has confirmed and has therefore established.

Some hold to the view that faith creates its own certainty out of the resources of its own making, that it is based on inadequate evidence; that actually insists that what ought to be true is therefore true. Admittedly, there some few areas where this seems to be the case. For instance, one smitten with love often insists that the one he loves must also love him, and will with determined effort strive to prove that to be true. Ruled by his conviction he will not abandon it. But biblical faith is not of that sort; it is impressed with God, not self. It does not create its own certainties, but lays hold of the certainties God has provided. God's revealed truths are not established by man's demands or preferences!

Biblical faith rests upon God's revelation that is historically correct; what God did in the creation and in Scripture. His directives, corrections, promises, and warnings demand a verdict. Promises, not only made but fulfilled; prophecies not only given but fulfilled; in such detail and with such accuracy that they stand as unimpeachable evidence of the nature of the very book that claims to be from God. Promises and prophecies fulfilled in exacting detail establish the Bible to be completely trustworthy. Two factors are presented in Psalm 19; the testimony -the evidence of the visible creation, and the place of Scripture. In fact, Psalm 19 can be used as a guide for the most intense evaluation of the testimony of the origin of the visible creation, the origin of life, of mankind, and man's accountability to his Creator. The Bible sets forth evidence and testimony that demands examination, and that stands as the basis of trust in God, and for the obedience of faith.

It is often ignored, but the definition of faith set forth in Hebrews 11:6, is not a complete definition. In that text the subject is of faith as a means of living for future rewards. Apart from faith the future has no point of reference. In this limited definition faith is the "assurance of things hoped for;" a "foundation," or "assurance" on which hope rests (cf. 2 Corinthians 9:4; 11:17). It is also "the conviction of things not seen." The things not seen are in the future, and for that reason are not yet seen. Things hoped for must rest upon promises God has made regarding the future - the Day of Judgment, and of eternal life for those who trust and obey the gospel, and abide in Christ (cf. I Corinthians 15; Romans 6, Romans 8; I Peter 1:3-25).....continued inside bulletin

### Morning Assembly

Announcements	Don Dillahunty
Song Leader	George Parks
Opening Prayer	Larry Sanderson
Scripture Reading	Keith Drochak
Prayer Leader	Jim Rhodes
Lord's Table	Neil Simmons
	Kelly Whisenant
	Charles Hughes
	Richard Davis
Closing Prayer	Troy Trammell

### September 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly

Announcements	Don Dillahunty
Song Leader	Roger Derda
Opening Prayer	Jim Rhodes
Scripture Reading	Greg Hendrickson
Prayer Leader	Barry Redden
Lord's Table	Rudy Kantu
	Bill Stewart
	Mike Wester
	Jim Wisniewski
Closing Prayer	Bob Justice

THOSE SERVING ASSEMBLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE PROMPTLY AT 10:20

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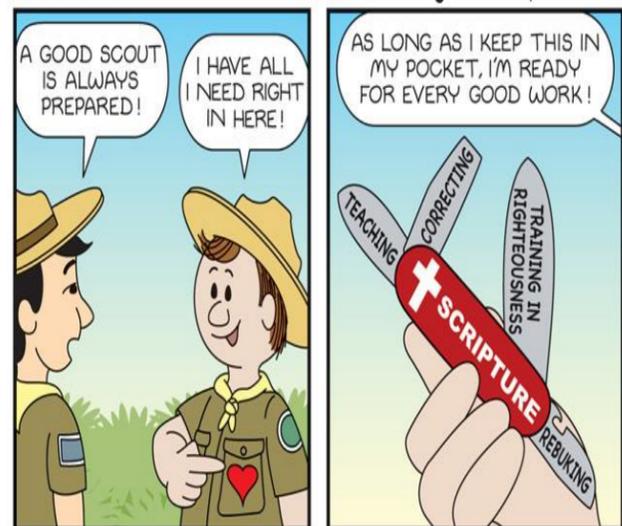
The message of the New Testament was given to establish faith in a person - Jesus the Son of God. Four witnesses wrote extensively of Him; of His nature, His incarnation, His character, His work, His death, and His resurrection. The facts given are about Him, and what did and what He taught. The testimony given, by the writers of the New Testament invites, even demands, examination. If that testimony fails there is no basis for faith in Him. If it is ignored, personal faith cannot be produced; and what may be claimed as personal faith is spurious. A credible faith rests upon evidence and testimony, not upon wishes or dreams.

Biblical faith is ruled by convictions that are worthy and God-honoring, and has nothing to fear from examination. The believer knows God and knows His will! The mix of faith and knowledge on the part of the Christian as declared by Paul, can be voiced by every Christian. Paul wrote. "For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day" ( II Timothy 1:12).

- Ronald Bryant

## GOD'S ARMY KNIFE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

— 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 NIV

## Prayer List

**Bob & Mary Justice** traveling to California to be with Bob's mother Ona Hubby who has been diagnosed with leukemia and only given a few days to live, she is 94 years old.

**Pam Williams (friend of Patty Pinney)** her daughter past away and left behind 3 young boys.

**Les Turner** has been released from hospital after being treated for blood clots in his legs.

**Cliff Seawel** to improve his health

**JoAnn Johnson** recovering at home after breaking her leg in two places. She is unable to bare weight on her leg for at least 3 months. She is Chuck's primary care giver and they are both in need of prayers.

**Betty Hanna** slowly improving. Thank you for all your prayers and encouragements. Please continue to pray for her as she will be discussing a second attempt at a pace maker.

**Autumn Cleaveland** will be having brain surgery, this is a delicate and serious surgery, please pray that it will be successful and safe.

**Michael Cleaveland (Kathy Cleaveland's son)** severe stomach problems; many ulcers. Pray that his treatment will be successful.

**Elizabeth Cook (Heidi Guest's mother)** tolerating radiation treatment well, just having nausea. Thank you all for your prayers.

### Continual Prayers Health Reasons/Treatment

~ **Glenn Kenner** many health concerns.

~ **Kenny Dorrance (Bob Justice's nephew)** throat cancer

~ **Carlos Rodriguez (Melissa Daniels brother-in-law)** prayers for a kidney transplant.

~ **Marian Johnson (Mandy Buchanan's grandmother)** comfort while dealing with bladder tumor.

~ **Kathleen Hall** improved health and kidney to work better.

~ **Julie (friend of Sally Guest)** husband, has liver cancer.

~ **Jan Stevens (Jean & Rudy Kantu's sister-in-law)** cancer treatment; she is improving

~ **Steven Lemm, 55 years old (nephew of Jean & Rudy Kantu)** failing in health, with no diagnosis.

~ **Christian (Becky Hanna's nephew)** terminal leukemia.

~ **Nick Cureton (nephew to Dale Cureton)** acute leukemia rare type.

~ **Eddie Redman's niece Rose** terminal illness

~ **Ellen Larremore** health problems

~ **Deanna Larremore** health problems

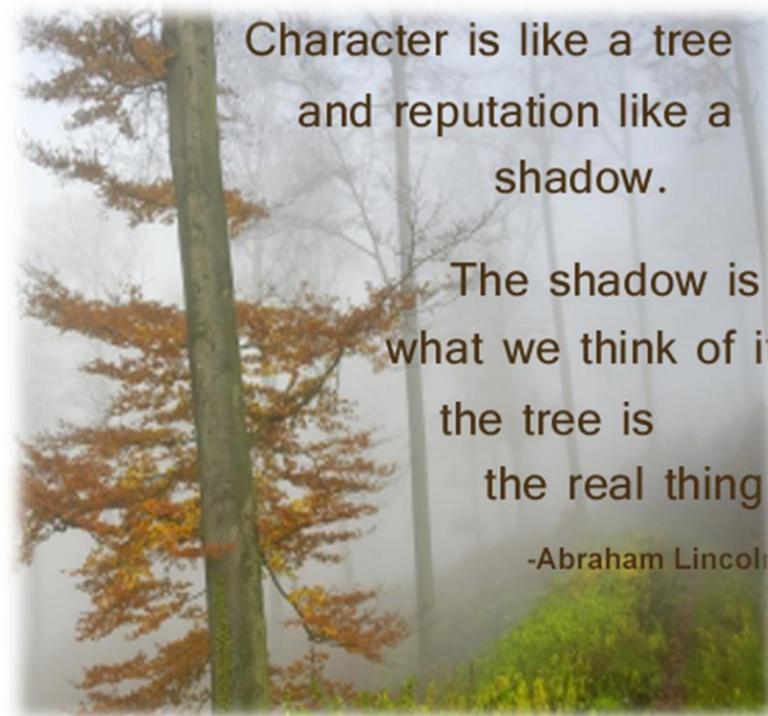
~ **Joe Hixenbaugh (Jim Hixenbaugh's brother)** cancer.

### Our Shut-ins

Ruth Hague Dwain Oliver

Danny Jones Marjorie Trammell

Bill Withers-VA



YEARLY RE-ENROLLMENT IN THE 2016-2017  
FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM BEGAN AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>.

Help Support Copper Basin Bible Camp thru the

Fry's Community Rewards Program

Use your Fry's V.I.P Card to create an online account.

### How to Re-Enroll for the Fry's Community Rewards Program

1. \* Go to [www.FrysCommunityRewards.com](http://www.FrysCommunityRewards.com)
2. \* Click on 'Sign-In'.
3. Enter your email and password, click on 'sign in'.
4. Click on your name (top right hand corner), under 'Account Summary' scroll down to "Community Rewards".
5. Click on 'Edit' under Community Rewards.
6. Under Find Your Organization: Enter Copper Basin Bible Camp - then select 'search'.
7. Under 'Select Your Organization', click on the circle next to your organization.
8. Click on 'Enroll'

\* If you have re-enrolled correctly, you should see a green box with 'Your enrollment in the Community Rewards Program has been updated. Thank you for participating!' You will also see the information listed under 'Community Rewards' on your Account Summary page.

## Things to Know

**Nursery/Cry Room**

Available at the back of the auditorium

**Sunday Evening Assembly**

6pm TONIGHT

**Breakfast at IHOP**

Sept 7<sup>th</sup> 8am

**Ladies Fall Retreat**

Sept 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> at Copper Basin Bible Camp.

**Elders, Deacons & Preacher Meeting**

Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm

**CBBC Fall BBQ**

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10am. Lunch, games, singing and more! Flyers are on the back table.

**Men's Retreat**

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> at CBBC

**Member Directories**

Updated member directories are in the church office.

**New Address**

Dolores Harmons new address in California:

Wildomar Senior

32325 S Pasadena St #515

Wildomar, CA 92595

## Congratulations!

To Savanna Phares for starting her second year at Harding University. We are all so proud of her and her commit to her continued education at a Christian school.

If you would like to send her a card of encouragement here is her address:

P O Box 13932

915 E Market Ave

Searcy, AR 72149-3932

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

*Psalm 19:1*

Psalm 33:8-9

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him.

For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.