



25. 2026

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 850 MINTER AVE., SHAFTER, CA 93263

WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning

8:30 Bible Classes

Mark 14:53 ff

Classes in English & Spanish

**PRAISE &
WORSHIP**

9:00 Prayer Worship

Please give us your requests

9:30 Worship Service

Worship in English & Spanish

Elders

Borjas Gonzales	599-9311
Eddie Fisher	342-8337
Garry Nelson	331-3858
Mike Westbrook	910-2197
Ron Nunlist	746-6531

Deacon

Minister

Jim Young 527-7026

jimyoung2work@aol.com

Church Office 746-2205

Office Hours:

Monday ~ Tuesday ~ Wednesday
8 am to 1 pm

Thursday
11 am to 4:30 pm

Friday Out of the Office

Bulletin

Jan Nelson 332-6146

grammyjan51@yahoo.com

Sandy Westbrook 910-8143

mikewestbrook@att.net

Don't forget to check out our
website

**No te olvides de visitar nuestro
sitio web**

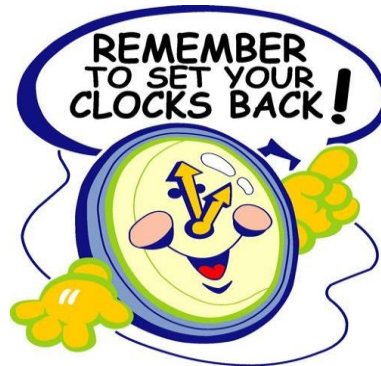
www.shafterchurchofchrist.com

Bible on your phone

MySpectrumWiFi8-2G

MySpectrumWiFi8-5G

password: purplelemon096



Remember to set
your clocks **BACK**
one hour on Saturday
night.

***"You are the light of the world – like a city on a
hilltop that cannot be hidden."
Matthew 5:14 NLT***

Help me to shine bright for you, Jesus. I want people
to know that I am yours because my
actions reflect your character.
Give me courage to live in a way
that honors you no matter what
difficulties I face.

(Taken from Prayers and Promises for Women)



**Reminder...The sign-up list for the building cleaning for October is
on the back left table. Please sign up.**

October 29 - Men's Bible Study in the kitchen at 7:30 a.m.

November 1 - Time changes - fall back one hour

November 3 - Elders Meeting at 8:00 a.m.

November 5 - Men's Bible Study in the kitchen at 7:30 a.m.

November 5 - Thursday Night Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Cook: Nancy

November 7 - Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 a.m. in the kitchen

Ladies Prayer Breakfast 9:30 a.m. at Nancy's

November 12 - Men's Bible Study in the kitchen at 7:30 a.m.

Pastor's Corner

Why Would God Desert Us? thegospelcoalition.org Kyle Strobel

Spiritual desertion (according to some) is God's act to lead His people into experiencing His absence in order to awaken them to the truth of how sinful and broken they truly are. (I personally disagree with the idea that God has left someone, even for this important reason. I do feel that our sins and our personal entanglement in this world's cares will cause our spirit to become separated from God's Spirit, as illustrated in the Prodigal Son parable. A person in the Prodigal Son's condition may very well like he is apart from God, but such sensitivity is God's Spirit working within you to restore you. Therefore, it may be that God does allow this to happen for the reasons given in this article.)

God leads you into your weakness to show you His power. He guides you into your desperation to unveil ever more deeply His grace. He unveils how deep sin goes in your soul so you can know how much you've been forgiven. Like suffering, spiritual desertion is meant to guide you back to the truth of the gospel amid your struggles. In this way, it's training in faith and hope.

For those of us who encounter a brother or sister struggling with this separation – we have an opportunity to help the person experiencing this to name their idolatries, false beliefs, and the sinfulness that rises to the surface of their lives, reminding them that Christ died for them while they were still in their sin, not in their goodness.

We know from Scripture that Christian growth is developmental. God relates to His people in their spiritual infancy, adolescence, and adulthood differently (1 Cor. 3:1–2; 1 John 2:13–14). In the Reformed tradition, this maturation process was understood as God leading us through the desert to know His forgiveness, grace, and mercy more deeply. As mentioned earlier, spiritual desertion is an invitation to a deeper walk with God by seeing more deeply your rebellion and more profoundly God's grace.

Whenever we find ourselves like the seeds in the thorns – we need to do like the Prodigal Son and repent and make a concerted effort to return to the Father, knowing that His response will be forgiveness, compassion and acceptance and renewal!



I expect to pass through life but once. If, therefore, there can be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now . . . as I shall not pass this way again.

-William Penn

**You simply must not underestimate sin
and you simply cannot overestimate grace.**

Think for a moment: whose sin do you tend to minimize? Your friends'? Your spouse's? Your children's? Your neighbors'? Your extended family members'? Your father's or mother's? Your boss's? For most of us the problem is not that we underestimate the sin of others. No, we tend to do the opposite. We're typically all too focused on the failure of others. We find it all too easy to point out their flaws. We're all tempted to keep a running record of the specific sins of the people around us. If we were honest, most of us would have to humbly confess that we tend to be far more concerned about the sins of the people around us than our own. We tend to be hyperaware of the weaknesses of those living near us while we appear to be functionally blind to our own. For this reason, we begin to forget that we are more like them than unlike them, that there are few things that we can see in the lives of others that are not present in our own lives in some way.

Now, this outward concern/inward denial dynamic is not okay. Blindness to your own sin is a denial of the presence of personal spiritual need. Such a denial always leads to a devaluing of and a resistance to God's grace. Denying your need for grace and underestimating the power of what that grace can do never, ever leads to anything good.

Here's the problem – this side of forever, we are all very good at doing both. We're all very good at looking at our sin and naming it less than sin, and we all tend to degrade the glory of what grace has done, is doing, and will do. People who deny sin tend to not progressively conquer it, and people who devalue grace tend not to run to it for help. What we're talking about here are the two sides of a healthy Christian life. You confess that although you are in Christ, the presence of sin is still within you. However, it is being progressively defeated, and you humbly embrace the fact that you have been given glorious grace that can do for you what you could never do for yourself.

The admission of sin doesn't lead you somewhere dark and depressing, because you know you've been given grace that is greater than your sin, and your celebration of grace is real and heartfelt because it's done in the context of your confession of the very sin that grace addresses. Confession of sin without the celebration of grace leads to guilt, self-loathing, timidity, and spiritual paralysis. Embracing grace without the admission of sin leads to confident theological "always rightism," but does not result in change in our heart and life. So, today, refuse to minimize sin, reject the temptation to devalue grace, and run to Jesus weeping and celebrating at the same time.

For further study and encouragement: 1 John 2:1-17

(Taken from [New Morning Mercies](#) by Paul David Tripp)

Prayer Request

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

If you need prayer, please let the Elders know, or call Vivian Fisher (889-4075) to start the prayer chain.

Lord, give me concern and compassion for the lost that I meet today. Open doors so I might share YOUR message!

NEW

Praises for Brandon, Westbrook's grandson, who was able to find job that will allow him and his family to remain where they are presently located

Garry and Jan will be leaving tomorrow for a few days in San Juan Capistrano; be back on Thursday

Adrianne, Barbara & LeRoy, Sandy continue to have issues and are under doctor supervision and waiting for results

Mike, doctors are still working on finding a solution to his blood pressure problem

Vivian, blood pressure fluctuations

Debra waiting on results of her nerve tests

Jan waiting on results of tests

Clara, Buggie's friend, suffering from a low hemoglobin count

Continued Prayer

One of **Earl's cousins** passed away recently; prayer for the family

Marsha, friend of the Nelsons, is having pancreatic surgery soon to deal with a tumor on her pancreas

Reuben, Borjas's brother-in-law, needs knee surgery as soon as possible

Clara, Buggies friend, waiting for the pathologist results from her recent surgery

Sally, having knee issues

Trina's **Aunt Doreen**, had a massive stroke

Borjas's grandson is having serious health issues

Debra continuing with PT and has some testing coming up from the new neurologist

Joe/Lori's children as they deal with various life struggles

John and Ashley are dealing with personal family issues

Natalie is dealing with work stress

Rhonda, Trina's friend, has been diagnosed with stage four lung cancer

Sally's brother, **Reuben**, is struggling with back pain

Tank as he deals with health issues and **Mary** as she cares for him

Three things will last forever - faith, hope and love - and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT

