

CHURCH OF CHRIST SAN MATEO

525 So. Bayshore Blvd. P.O. Box 5026 San Mateo, Ca. 94402
Johnny S. Oxendine, Evangelist Email: cocsm@aol Telephone: (650) 343-4997
Web Address: <http://www.church-of-christ.org/cocsm>; <http://members.aol.com/cocsm>

WHAT DO WE MEAN EXACTLY WHEN WE USE THE WORD COMPASSION? SOULS ARE AT STAKE

We want to examine the “concept” of compassion. Compassion is one of the greatest characteristics of the human spirit. The American Heritage Dictionary defines “compassion” as a “deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it.” Jesus was moved by compassion on many occasions. Matthew tells us that, prior to the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus went out and saw a great multitude and “was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick” (Matt. 14:14).

As we study the New Testament, there is one group of people who appear to be totally lacking in this great moral quality, i.e., the Pharisees. In this article, I would like to examine specific passages that speak on compassion. First we have a question for all:

Are we compassionate towards the lost? Do we see those lost in sin as individuals who have been blinded by “the god of this age” (II Cor. 4:3)? Do we mourn over their sins and try to teach them? Paul said his “heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved” (Rom. 10:1-3). Do we have compassion towards our brethren when they sin? Does our compassion move us to warn them? Paul mournfully told the Ephesian elders that “for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears” (Acts 20:31).

Do we mourn when a brother or sister leaves the Lord? How do we treat those who fall away and then come back to God? Do we gleefully allow them to be swallowed up with sorrow (II Cor. 2:1-7)? Do we “reaffirm” our love towards them as we are commanded (II Cor. 2:8)? Sometimes Christians allow the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh or the pride of life to drive them away from God (I John 2:16). And like the prodigal son, they sink in the mire of sin—they are stained with the shame and guilt that sin brings (cf. Luke 15:11-24). Then sometimes, like the prodigal son, they “come to themselves” (their right mind) and realize what a mess they have made of their lives and they determine to come back to their Heavenly Father. How we treat those who come back to God speak volumes about our compassion—it reveals us as either followers of Jesus Christ or as modern day Pharisees.

I am willing to accept that there are possibly some Christians who rejoice when other people fall into sin. Sometimes as people are trying to rebuild a life that has been wrecked and ravaged by sin, other Christians do their best to discourage and destroy them! Sometimes a person comes forward to make a public confession of sin and some busybody wants to know all of the details. Sometimes people repent, and then other Christians have to tell everyone they meet what the person did wrong—although they would never dream of divulging their own little family secrets. Apparently, some people think that there is a cooler spot in hell reserved for the gossip than there is for the adulterer! Does the degree of compassion in your life make you more like your Master or the Pharisees? Let us all examine our lives!



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS
FRANK NICHOLS

SONG LEADER
NOEL ANG

PRAYERS
MANNY ANG
BILL MICHAEL

COMMUNION
DENNIS CABREBA
KEITH COHN

PREACHING
JOHNNY OXENDINE

**FILLING THE WORLD
WITH THE
KNOWLEDGE OF THE
LORD**
Isaiah 11:9





Supporting:
Apologetics Press
(Bert Thompson)

Indonesia
(Barry Hatcher)

November 28, 2004

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2004

28 9:45 CLASS 11:00 WORSHIP 2:00 WORSHIP	29 Evangelism Class 7-8 pm	30	1 7:00 BIBLE CLASS	2	3	4
5 9:45 CLASS 11:00 WORSHIP 2:00 WORSHIP	6 Evangelism Class 7-8 pm	7	8 7:00 BIBLE CLASS	9	10 Keith Mosher, Sr. San Mateo Gospel Meeting	11
12 	13 Evangelism Class 7-8 pm	14	15 7:00 BIBLE CLASS	16	17 Hayward Church of Christ -	18
19 9:45 CLASS 11:00 WORSHIP 2:00 WORSHIP	20 Evangelism Class 7-8 pm	21	22 7:00 BIBLE CLASS	23	24	25 
26 9:45 CLASS 11:00 WORSHIP 2:00 WORSHIP	27 Evangelism Class 7-8 pm	28	29 7:00 BIBLE CLASS	30 	31 	1 Happy New Year! Be Safe!

NEWSCLIPS

NEW BROTHER IN CHRIST - MARC TOURVILLE

Marc Tourville was baptized for the remission of sins Wednesday night after the class. Those who have been in the Wednesday night classes will know Marc as a man with lots of stories to tell. We were able to rejoice with him as he had his sins washed away. His address information is provided below and will be in membership directory.

Marc Tourville
1225 Beacon Ave. #3
San Mateo, Ca. 94402
Telephone: (415) 571-1197
Email: marcspot@hotmail.com

TRAVELING? BE CAREFUL AND IN OUR PRAYERS...

Lincoln Strattan is out of town again (visiting in the southern California area) until Mon/Tue. Please keep him in your prayers. Any others also need prayers!

CLASSES AND MATERIALS...

Class materials now available from Johnny. Be reminded that classes change this Wednesday, and those teaching need to prepare.

WE RECOMMEND: GOSPEL JOURNAL

There is a long list of articles that we only have room to mention briefly. We begin with a view of liberals from Dub McClish that will make one consider the way friends and relatives may view themselves. *Elusive Objectivity* is another article that reminds us of how things (like family) can cloud vision (and a view of the scriptures). *Can We Sing Songs of Praise to Jesus?* Where does it authorize it in scripture? A look at this issue. *Holy Spirit Baptism* remains an issue of confusion for some people (who don't study the scriptures closely). *Children's Church* is a concept that has become popular among the "jet-set" (those who can't stand the idea of teaching children to behave during congregational worship). The question is whether it violates anything in the scriptures; if you aren't certain of the answer, be sure to read this article. There is also a new issue of the *Defender*.

ROMANS STUDY NOW IN CHAPTER 15...

Last week we had a great discussion finishing chapter fourteen, we especially enjoyed the study on verses 10-12. The emphasis was on the importance of our status before God in the day of judgement. Our standing before Christ is inevitable.