

A BENEFIT OF KNOWING GOD

Psalm 46:1

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

The writer of Psalm 46 is informing us about our confidence in God, for God is our refuge (shelter or hope) and strength. He is our constant help in times of trouble (distress, affliction, adversity, or tribulation). Because of who God is in our lives, amid these troubled times, **we can still enjoy life**. This is “A Benefit Of Knowing God.”

WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

At St. John, your well-being is a priority! We miss assembling together to worship God, but we must continue to be cautious. **To keep us safe, we will not assemble in person this coming Sunday**; however, we will continue to worship, congregate, and study virtually and online. For example, I encourage everyone to view our worship via YouTube especially until we reopen for in-person worship. As in the past, we should be able to view each service on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. or thereafter.

UNPLUGGED SUNDAY

Tradition is not always a bad or negative word as we often hear in its description. Tradition can be defined as a belief shared, observed, and practiced by one generation from another generation. Based on this definition, **all tradition is not bad or negative because some beliefs shared, observed, and practiced are good**.

Even though we have a good and comfortable way that we worship, sometimes we need to “unplug” and experience God in other valid and acceptable ways. In 2020, we began the year at St. John having Unplugged Sundays on 4th Sundays which were a great success, but the pandemic caused us to suspend them. **Unplugged Sundays are primarily designed to reach young people** which we believe is necessary since a lot of young people need to be reached for Christ.

Despite this current pandemic, Unplugged Sunday is scheduled to be reinvigorated this coming Sunday, January 23, 2022. Unlike two years ago, this forthcoming Unplugged Sunday will be virtual. **Our special guest will be a young preacher, Minister Kevin Craddock, and our special feature will be CHRISTalk—an unscripted conversation with Christian young people**. As the pastor, I am very

excited about this, and I encourage each of us to participate via YouTube on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. or thereafter. I envision thousands of viewers which is feasible if we view it and inspire many others to view it. I assure you that you will not be disappointed.

TITHING BEGAN BEFORE THE LAW

The Bible explains that tithing is an important part of faith for those who follow God and that tithing (10 % of our gross income/increase) should be money we set aside before paying anything else. Nonetheless, many argue that tithing was a command and practice of the Old Testament law, but they do not know that tithing began before the Biblical days of the law. For instance, tithing has its roots in the Biblical account of Abraham presenting a tenth of the war spoils to Melchizedek, the king of Salem (Gen. 14:17-20). Abraham's tithe presentation to Melchizedek was before the law was ever written. Thus, let us not be guilty of incorrectly saying that we do not tithe because this was a requirement for only those in the days of the law. Tithing was practiced before the law, and it was still practiced in the New Testament. As I discussed a week ago, Jesus endorsed tithing in Matthew 23:23. If Jesus, who came not to change the law but to fulfill it, was opposed, he would not have endorsed tithing.

When we tithe faithfully, God promised to bless us abundantly (Mal. 3:10). Even though we are not assembling together for a short period of time, let us be faithful to God with our Tithes and Offerings as God is faithful to us with His manifold blessings. We currently give in person during Sunday Morning Worship Celebrations, by mailing or dropping off our Tithes and Offerings at our Administration Building or South Campus, or by giving online through our website (sjmbc.org).

OUR DAILY BREAD

Thursday, January 20, 2022: Genesis 46-48; Matthew 14:22-36
Friday, January 21, 2022: Genesis 49-50; Matthew 15:1-20
Saturday, January 22, 2022: Exodus 1-3; Matthew 15:21-39
Sunday, January 23, 2022: Exodus 4-6; Matthew 16
Monday, January 24, 2022: Exodus 7-8; Matthew 17
Tuesday, January 25, 2022: Exodus 9-10; Matthew 18:1-20
Wednesday, January 26, 2022: Exodus 11-12; Matthew 18:21-35
Thursday, January 27, 2022: Exodus 13-15; Matthew 19:1-15
Friday, January 28, 2022: Exodus 16-18; Matthew 19:16-30

Saturday, January 29, 2022: Exodus 19-21; Matthew 20:1-16

SOULIDIFIED2

We are delighted to announce and promote a new restaurant, *Soulidified2*, that launched its grand opening last Saturday, January 15, 2022. A partnering owner is one of our parishioners, Sis. Denise Kimble (the wife of Deacon Edward Kimble). This restaurant serves American food with a southern flair. *Soulidified2* also provides full catering service, repast for families, and private gatherings. The address is 603 Main Street, Suisun, CA 94585. The following is additional contact information: Phone: (707) 673-2592; Web: Soulidified2.com; Email: Soulidified2@gmail.com. Let's be supportive and share this information with others (especially people who live in the vicinity of Suisun).

MEMORANDUM

Building Fund Pledges: We still desire to construct a multimillion-dollar **Family Life Center**, adjacent to our current sanctuary at the North Campus, which will consist of a gymnasium, game room (for the youth), and weight room. Many of us made a pledge that we fulfilled, but some have not. I personally thank those of us who have already fulfilled our pledge and others who have made "Building Fund" contributions. I encourage everyone (if you have not already done so) to participate financially as soon as possible in this building project by choosing one of the following tiers:

- 1) \$10,000.00 or more
- 2) \$5,000.00 to \$9,999.00
- 3) \$1,000.00 to \$4,999.00
- 4) \$500.00 to \$999.00
- 5) Below \$500.00

Weekly Activities: I strongly encourage everyone to participate in the **St. John activities that benefit you**. In regards to each of the following activities, visit our website at sjmbc.org if you need more information. What's forthcoming?

Sundays:

- **Virtual Worship Celebration** at 11:00 a.m. or thereafter
- **Online Church School** at 2:00 p.m.
- **Online J.A.M. (Children Fellowships)** 2nd and 4th Sundays at 4:00 p.m.

- **Online Lord's Supper** 1st Sundays at 7:00 p.m. To participate, each believer will need bread or a cracker and grape juice (or something similar).

Mondays:

- **Preparation For Grocery Giveaway** at 10:00 a.m. (South Campus)
- **Online Women Missionary Ministry (General Mission)** 4th Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesdays:

- **Grocery Giveaway** (North Campus and South Campus) at 12:00 p.m.
- **Online Church Leadership Council** Tuesdays before 3rd Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays:

- **Online Prayer** at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- **Online Church School** at 7:00 p.m.

BIBLICAL RECAPITULATION

We learn “**A Benefit Of Knowing God**” in Psalm 46:1 which states: “*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*” Also, be mindful that **tithing** began before the law (Gen. 14:17-20) and should still be practiced by believers today.

May God bless and sustain each of us.

Your Servant In Christ,

Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor