

Month At A Glance

“Dependence or Independence?”

By Pastor Steve Gibson

Do you give thanks for being free? Do you savor liberty? What a blessing that there are people who had a dream for this nation to be a place where we could worship God as we choose. And they acted on their dream. We still benefit today from the efforts they invested in valuing freedom. Still, we recognize the fragile nature of freedom. It can quickly be lost.

We celebrate independence for our nation officially each summer in July. What about our own lives? Are you independent? Of course we value being able to drive to the store or to church, or to have the physical ability to tie our shoes or take a shower. We give thanks that we can watch a church service or spiritual meeting via the internet. But do we really want to be independent? Jesus addressed this in John the 15th chapter as He used an illustration to represent our relationship to Him. ‘I am the vine’, He said, ‘and you are the branches’ (v. 5). Based on this illustration; we are not at all independent. We can accomplish nothing on our own (v. 5).

As the chapter progresses, it becomes clear that to be separated from the Vine means death (v. 6). Thankfully, most of us want to live. That is a healthy desire. As we are attached to the Vine we find life and recognize that we are loved (v. 9). When we recognize God’s love for us, we will know what joy really is (v. 11). When we experience God’s love and receive His joy, then we are able to share love with others (v. 17).

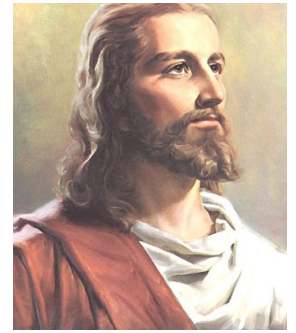
So it’s no wonder that in the last days, there are many who do not love others. How could they love if they haven’t experienced being loved? Of course God loves them, but they refuse to acknowledge it or fail to recognize it.

In the end, there are two groups left in this world. Those who abide in Christ and have learned to love are one group. The others are the haters, who never experienced love or chose to reject it. In Matthew 24, Jesus spoke of those whose ‘...love grows cold’ (v. 12).

Where do you want to be? Among the branches savoring the life and love available in depending on the Vine? Or do you prefer to not depend on anyone and lose out on life?

It’s the choices we make day by day that determine our outcome. Have you taken time today to thank God for the privilege of living in a nation with freedom to worship Him openly? Have you spent time in prayer, savoring the love that God pumps through your system? Are you getting nourishment from His Word? Are you learning to depend on His power, His motivation instead of your own?

If you are making those choices, your life will be marked by His joy, regardless of the difficulties you are facing. His joy can persist even alongside other emotions that aren’t so welcome and you can be a blessing to someone in your world who urgently needs an invitation to sample the life of a dependent branch.



March

Church Board Meeting
March 11th @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Work Bee
March 28th @ 8-10 a.m.

Sabbath School
Adult in person 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Adult Via Zoom 8:45 a.m.
Primary and Junior via Zoom
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Church Service
In person and Live Stream
11:30 a.m.

Prayer Group
Wednesday’s 7:30 p.m.
Call 1-971-224-6616 Code: 278589

Great Controversy Reading
Sabbath afternoon @ 3:30 p.m.
Look for an email with Zoom information.

Tithes & Offerings
Below are a couple of ways you can give your offerings:

Mail to: **Cathy Fields**
P.O. Box 15332
Scottsdale, AZ 85267

Go to www.desertcovesda.com and click on ‘Online Giving’ and follow the prompts to give that way.

OR...Bring it Sabbath mornings and there will be a box in the hallway to put it in before or after the service.

Email: pastorstevegibson@hotmail.com **Physical Address:** 12400 W Desert Cove Road, El Mirage, AZ 85335

Mailing Address: 13954 W. Waddell Road, Suite 103 #616, Surprise, AZ 85379 **Website:** www.desertcovesda.com

COVID—19 RELATED FACTS

According to the research, the cause of COVID-19, might be able to penetrate the brain. Researchers have discovered that the spike protein, or the red arms of the virus, can cross the blood-brain barrier in mice. Therefore when one gets the COVID infection the additional explanation is that the virus enters the respiratory centers of the brain and causes problems there as well. SARS-CoV-2 binds to cells via the S1 subunit of its spike protein. Binding proteins like S1 alone can cause damage as they detach from the virus and cause inflammation. The S1 protein causes the brain to release cytokines and inflammatory products. The COVID-19 infection then proceeds to cause a cytokine storm, the immune system overreacting in its attempt to kill the invading virus. The infected individual is then left with cognitive issues, like brain fog and fatigue.

There is also evidence that the transport of S1 is faster in the olfactory bulb and kidney of male mice rather than females. This might relate to why men's increased susceptibility to more severe COVID-19 infections. It is prudent that this virus is real and under no circumstances one should not want to mess with this virus. Any of the effects that the COVID virus could be accentuated or perpetuated or even caused by the virus getting in the brain and those effects could last for a very long time.

On top of all the physical facts related to COVID-19 there is also the unfortunate fact that suicide rates have risen sharply. One can only imagine, that if the individual is not anchored on Our Savior and only focus on the stress, loneliness, and hopelessness from the effects of this virus there is no wonder the suicidal rates have risen. Now more than ever we must shine and present to this world the light of Our Savior Jesus Christ. Again and again, **TRUST ON THE LORD!**

Psalm 91

Blessings and Prayers, Dr. Sylvia Hayashi/Health and Prayer Ministry Leader

Crockpot Chickpea Curry

1 cup chopped carrots	4 cups cauliflower florets	1 cup frozen peas
1 onion, diced	2 14 oz. cans Chickpeas (drained/rinsed)	4 cloves minced garlic
2 1/2 tsp. yellow curry powder	1/2 tsp. ground coriander	1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes
2 cups vegetable broth	1 14 oz. can coconut milk	1 tsp. salt
1/4 cup finely chopped fresh basil (add at the end of cooking)		

1. Place all ingredients except the fresh basil into the crockpot. Stir together.
2. Cook in crockpot for 4 hours on **High** or 6+ hours on **Low**.
3. Before serving, remove 1 cup of mixture and mash with a fork. Return mashed portion to the crockpot and add chopped fresh basil.
4. Serve over a bed of rice and sprinkle with roasted cashews if desired.

Note: If you want to use your Instant Pot, put all but the basil in, choose Manual High Pressure and set for 3 minutes. Allow natural release for 10 minutes.

Recipe from www.veganblueberry.com