

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 *Jim Collins*
6 *Gary Bates*
10 *Nathan Mougeot*
13 *Lonnie Ferguson*
22 *Kaitlyn Lucas*

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 *Rex and Sharon Rose*



VERDE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

2001 ARENA DEL LOMA

CAMP VERDE, ARIZONA 86322

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youtube@verdevalleychurchofchrist

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY: 20

SUNDAY AM: 56 SUNDAY PM: 13

WEDNESDAY: 11

OFFERING: \$1,994

December 21, 2025

Welcome to the
Verde Valley Church of Christ

VERDE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

ELDERS:

HAROLD KILBY-harold.kilby@yahoo.com

LONNIE FERGUSON-LFerguson@banicki.com

DEACONS:

JASON CARR

JIM VOGEL

PREACHER:

DOMINIC BENETTI - dominic.benetti@gmail.com

Sermon

***Preaching Through Acts – The Template of the Lord’s Church
Part 27***

Gathering Times

Sunday Bible class 9:30 AM Sunday morning worship 10:30 AM

Sunday evening worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible study 7:00 PM

SERMON SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Preaching Through Acts – The Template of the Lord's Church – Part 27

-In 49/50 A.D., Paul and Silas have begun the second missionary journey. They have just recruited Timothy to come with them and they are going about teaching how the churches need to instruct their Gentile converts to begin observing and be in accordance with the letter from Chapter 15.

Chapter 16 Verses 19-30

John 15:18-20 & 1 Peter 4:12-16 & Rom. 8:28 (Paul and Silas suffered for doing what is right and proclaiming Jesus, as we all can or might. We need to stay strong in the face of persecution of any kind, knowing that our eternal reward grows when we receive it. Here, God used this persecution to bring the Jailer and his family to faith, as God uses all things for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.)

Verses 31-34

Heb. 3:18-19 & Gen. 15:2-6 & Acts 2:38 & Matt. 28:18-20 & Acts 19:1-3 & Mark 16:15-16 (The Bible shows belief to be proved through obedient actions. When God gave instructions for "faith" in every covenant, and the promised reward for following those, a person showed they believed God if they followed His directions. In this covenant, people have been directed to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins, which Paul equated with "believing" in Acts 19, and then they need to obey all else that the Word of God has commanded us, and if they are "faithful" until death, they will receive the crown of life.)

Verses 35-40

Acts 22:25-29 (Valerian and Porcian law, passed centuries earlier by the Roman Republic, made it illegal to beat Roman citizens, and even to have them put into chains without a trial. Paul uses the laws of the land to work in his favor as he can guarantee his and Silas's safety and demonstrate his forgiveness and mercy. We also see that the church seems to be meeting in Lydia's home, as all early churches started as house churches.)

Chapter 17 Verses 1-7

1 Thess. 1:6-7 (The Church in Thessalonica only had Paul with them for three weeks, to teach and establish them, before he was driven out of the city. Yet, this became **the only** congregation in the entire New Testament which is called "an example to others." We do not need "time" and "endless chances" to start getting our Christianity right, we just need a burning desire to learn what the Bible says to do and then take that seriously enough to begin doing it.)

Verses 8-12

Isa. 7:14, 9:6 & Micah 5:2 & Jer. 31:31-34 (There is a reason people often want to be compared to the Berean Jews in a favorable light, because when they heard new teachings about the Bible, they did not accept or reject them off-hand. Instead, they went back to the Scriptures to validate or invalidate what was said, allowing God's Word to explain God's Word. This willingness and reliance to have God's Word be the only thing that guides us to Truth is why many of them became Christians, since these things had always been written about concerning Jesus and the New Covenant.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICES ARE STREAMED ON FACEBOOK LIVE

- ▶ **Classes and sermons are available on YouTube.**
- ▶ **There is a children's Bible study during the sermon.**
- ▶ **Make plans to join us for our next potluck; in the fellowship hall following morning worship on February 1st!! (No potluck is scheduled for January.)**
- ▶ **Current diaper pantry needs: size 3. See [Kassandra](#) for more information.**
- ▶ **Looking for an assistant to help Wanda in the cradle roll class – only a one month commitment! If you can help, please sign up on the bulletin board.**
- ▶ **Wednesday Bible study will not be held this week (December 24th)**

Sermon Scripture References - cont'd:

Verses 13-15

Matt. 10:14-16, 13:3-9 (We are to be innocent as doves, but as shrewd/crafty as serpents. We are to scatter the "seed" meaning "preach the gospel of how to be saved" everywhere we go and give it to everyone, knowing that most will not accept it. We are not expected to try and convince or force anyone to believe it if they do not, and we are expected to use our discernment and good judgment to escape dangerous situations and try to give the gospel to those who will not seek to harm us for it, if possible. Those that reject it and want to fight or blaspheme against it need to be abandoned to the fate they have chosen for themselves and other souls need to be given the opportunity to respond to it.)

Verses 16-21

Rom. 1:16-20 & Matt. 10:32-33 (Paul flees to Athens and responds to the opportunities God gives him to share the gospel. Athens was one of the intellectual centers of the ancient world, and Paul was not afraid to engage with any of them with the message of the gospel. The gospel, the Bible, belief in our God, is not stupid. Far from it, it is actually the only thing that makes sense, and we should never be "embarrassed" to be Christians or for what we believe in. Instead, we should do the work to understand WHY it makes sense so that we can share it with others and give them the chance to see that it makes sense, and any other explanation for the existence of the universe is actually foolish.)

PRAY FOR



*Greg & Wanda Mattson's daughter, Jaime
(recovering from a brain aneurysm)
Gary Bates (recovering from back surgery)
Barbara Parsons (recovering from hip surgery)
Jim Vogel (recovering from wrist/hand surgery)
Adrian Osborne (macular degeneration treatments)*

Shut-ins: Kathie & Eddie Rose, Wally Dickinson