



SCRIPTURE MEMORY — FELLOWSHIP —

August 2016 Newsletter - "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Cor. 4:6)

Call to Action

Turning the calendar to August signals the start of many disciplines. Prioritize memorizing Scripture with:

- 1** The 2 Timothy Project (see below)
- 2** Choose another SMF memory book
- 3** SMF App (unlimited memory books now available for \$9.99)

Choose your memory books from **scripturememory.com** or call for catalog.

ALSO, consider using the enclosed **bulletin insert**; call us for up to 50 free copies, plus shipping/handling.

NEW! Memorize All of 2 Timothy in 4 Months



Memory Journal

Copy, study, and learn

Rewards

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Mobile App

Audio/visual practice tools

Scriptorium Recital

February 3-4, 2017

Sign up by texting "2Tim" to 24587 or visit scripturememory.com/2Tim

Enroll and receive all the above for just \$10, or get the PDF free. Sign up by August 31 to receive a free commentary!

El Centro College, America, and Scripture Memory

(On July 7 a gunman shot 12 police officers, 5 fatally, on a downtown Dallas campus; my reaction follows.)

Blasted windows, patched bullet holes, and police barricades marked the campus of El Centro College, where I teach several mornings a week. Passing the boarded up windows of the 7-11 convenience store, I couldn't help it. I wept, realizing it was the spot where Officer Michael Smith had been gunned down from the second-story college windows across Elm Street. As tears kept coming, many reactions and emotions mixed in my heart. Society coming apart at the seams. Thin veneer of civilization ripped away revealing a culture steeped in violence and vengeance. Bereaved families. Suspicious, furtive glances from one race to another. What can be done? How should we react? Amidst much media commentary and swirling opinion, these thoughts remain:



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El Centro College—Continued

“Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Honor the King” (1 Pet. 4:17). How simple, yet how profound. Amidst all the discussion of right and wrong, we must honor the people of whatever race God puts in our path. Humankind deserve double honor because they are made in God’s image and because Christ died for them (Gen. 1:26-28, 1 Cor. 15:3-4). To Christ-followers of every race we owe love as well as honor. May that love fulfill Jesus’ words, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). Lastly, the “King,” and all those in the legal profession deserve honor. They are “the powers that be,” vested by God with legal authority for the restraint of evil and the rewarding of good (Rom. 13:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:14).

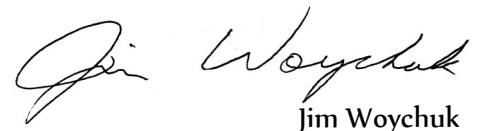
“Thou shalt not murder” (Ex. 20:13). On both sides of the “blue line” stands this eternal principle. Murder violates the image of God and therefore incurs capital punishment. In C.S. Lewis’s *Chronicles of Narnia*, the boy Digory is tempted to steal a special apple, which would heal his dying mother. At the last moment, however, he chooses to deliver the apple to its proper owners, and the narrator comments, “Things like ‘Do Not Steal’ were, I think, hammered into boys’ heads a good deal harder in those days than they are now.” And there you have it! When “Thou shalt not murder” has been “hammered” into a mental fixture since infancy, we may expect a more self-controlled citizenry and police force. On the other hand, if the act of murder loses any sense of divine accountability, beware. Pandemonium (in its original sense) is around the corner. So if the ten commandments are not being “hammered” into boys’ and girls’ heads these days, what is? When Dinesh D’Souza connected the abuse scandal of the 2003 Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq with the promiscuous society from which the offending soldiers came, he was making an obvious observation: if our movies, literature, tabloids and public media saturate society with immodesty, lewdness, and violence, should we be surprised if some soldiers act this out overseas (Gen. 6:11)?

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart” (Deut. 6:6). At the Dallas memorial for the slain police officers, President Obama quoted Ezekiel 36:26 and spoke of America’s need for a new heart. Such a heart-transplant takes place when God’s Word comes into a human heart and faith in Jesus Christ results. Frankly, apart from hearts transformed by the power of God operating through the Word of God, little hope remains of avoiding the whirlpool-to-cesspool fate described in Romans 1 and 2 Timothy 3. But where God’s Word enters, and Christ is revealed, believed, and embraced, a great light dawns! Will you re-invest yourself in the planting of God’s Word? Our nation needs it. Your church needs it. Our hearts need it. We can help you in this quest.

Ministry Update

Please continue praying for us. Our unpaid bills stand just above \$6000. Paul’s words to the church at Philippi resonate with us: “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.... And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:12-13, 19).

Much grace to each of you,



Jim Woychuk



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*Scripture Memory Fellowship exists to help you
grip the “sword of the Spirit” (Eph. 6:17)
through Scripture memorization, knowledge, and application.*

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