



The Fountain
1023 N Chinowth St.
Visalia, CA 93291



The
FOUNTAIN
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Intentionally Growing, and #LivingSENT for Jesus



The
Fountain
Christian Church

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Why I Sometimes Add Romans 16:13 to my Signature

By Pastor Sam Sears

Go ahead. I'll wait. Look it up. Pull out your Bible, or even a Bible app on your phone, and find it. — 6th book in the New Testament, and the last chapter. Scroll down to verse 13 and enjoy. OK. Done it? A few of you probably even just straight-up googled it, right? I'll confess: I wanted you to get a little more practice opening that Word, but if you googled it, it's forgiven. So, I guess I should probably address that puzzled expression you are now sporting.

The first time I encountered Romans 16:13 as an individual quote was via apologist and author, Frank Turek. I've listened to Frank for many years, and met him in person a few times, including presenting to him, so he could critique and train me at the Cross Examiner's Instructor's Academy. Frank has a sharp wit and, compared to the always nice and calm Greg Koukl (another mentor whom I recommend to you), Frank sometimes has a bit of an edge to him. In discussing Bible verses, he said that he sometimes signs books with Romans 16:13. Over the years, I have memorized plenty of Scripture, but I drew a blank at that one, and that was exactly what he intended.

Frank was using the out-of-context quote to illustrate a point. When I looked it up, I was just as confused as you were reading it just now. Despite believing that he had signed one of his books that I own in that way, I couldn't find it, and now think that memory was just from looking it up while he was explaining this on his CrossExamined podcast. Why did he do it? To encourage thought, and I have followed suit a few times.

How often do folks really look up verses signed on cards and books, anyway? Do they admit it when they do not know them? Do they confirm it when they think that they do? To notice that something is off, you need to actually know the verse or crack open your Bible and check it out. Given that "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;" (2 Timothy 3:16) we should be digging into it, examining it, absorbing it.

But if all words are inspired, why does Romans 16:13 seem odd? What about Malachi 2:3? Look that one up, too, and know that we soften the translation in English. It is important that we all understand that verses were added much later to help us with memory. The verse numbers and those divisions are not inspired Scripture themselves. Each verse has a context. 2 Peter 1:20 informs us that Scripture has only one meaning, and we need the context to figure out that meaning.

In the case of Romans 16:13, it is also important that we remember that Scripture had an original audience. The verses did not come down through the

Why I Sometimes Add Romans 16:13 to my Signature

ages as little dew drops from Heaven just for you. All verses are true, but not all verses have a modern application, or even any application for our lives. Romans 16:13 did give an instruction to the original Roman readers, and even gave a little hook to help verify its historicity, and it's pretty harmless to take out of context. Not every verse out of context is harmless, though.

Romans 16:13 may not end up on any pillows or posters, but Jeremiah 29:11 will, and yet that verse wasn't written to us, and wasn't written in isolation. It was written to a people about to go into exile. I've been there with people in tears, who "named and claimed" that verse and yet went through deep personal tragedy. They thought God broke his promise, because they were counting on a promise God never made to them. Taking verses out of context does have consequences. As John Stonestreet likes to say, "Ideas have consequences, and bad ideas have victims." I hope that by occasionally referencing Romans 16:13, I will reinforce the idea that the context of Scripture matters. God's book is too holy to be used incorrectly.

Second Service in the Parking Lot



The Adventures of 2020

By Kevin Ronk

What a year 2020 has been already! This experience has definitely been new for us all, and has come with many challenges and hurdles. As we continue to traverse these uncharted waters, it becomes more and more apparent just how much we need God's grace and guidance! And here at the Fountain, the experience has been no different or less difficult than anywhere else. That being said, we continue to press forward and rely on our Lord to see us through it all.

We have had our fair share of technical difficulties, stressful situations and heightened emotions; as have most churches throughout the country. The nice thing to remember is that first and foremost, God is in control. Beyond that, it's been a great reminder that there is always a silver lining if we look for it.

This situation, though unexpected and difficult, has allowed us to push forward into areas we may not have ventured into otherwise or at least at the rate we've been required to. Our Organic Outreach Team has had so many wonderful opportunities to branch out into new areas; from taco dinner deliveries to special graduation celebration ideas for our high school seniors. It's been a joy to experience being part of a team that has been able to focus our hearts and minds first on Jesus, and secondly on working together to accomplish His great plans for us.

We have realized that many of the new avenues we've opened up to respond to our quarantine situation are things that we can carry on into the future, as the world begins to normalize. What this all has helped me personally re-realize is that sometimes difficult situations can push us to improve and expand upon what may already be established. And when you add God into the equation, it's a combination that can't be beat.

Another door that's been forced violently open by the current situation is that of the technological world; and it's been great! Of course with change, often comes frustration and hardship, but it has been wonderful overall to see our church be able to stretch out into the reaches of live streaming. We continue week to week to improve and expand upon our current capabilities, and we are so very grateful for the kind and patient response of the congregation as we do so. The world of Facebook, YouTube and the like has such great potential to reach the lost, and even those Christians who may not yet have a home. It's exciting to see and to look forward to what these changes and adjustments hold in store for the future.

As the weeks and months go on and we continue to move closer to a sense of normalcy, we are hopeful that our various ministries will see existing members returning, and new members added to the mix. We are looking forward in the coming weeks to reinitiating our youth program, in-church services, women's ministries and so much more. We will continue to seek God's guid-

The Adventures of 2020

By Kevin Ronk

ance as to how exactly we bring these things into action.

I have been blessed to see our church's specific response and plan of action going forward. We have begun implementing plans that I feel will suit the concerns that should be addressed, as well as the desires to return to normal life as best as possible. Beginning with outside services, with the availability to listen from our vehicles via an FM transmitter or to bring chairs and safely distance, moving into the sanctuary with distancing protocols implemented, and eventually returning to normal service with the continued addition of online streaming.

As has been the case throughout these months of quarantine, transitioning back to normalcy will surely come with its own set of difficulties. But by ensuring that God is the guiding force behind our decisions and by being the wise and faithful Christians that Christ has called us to be, I believe we will persevere.

*"He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you,
for power is perfected in weakness.'
Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses,
so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses,
with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake;
for when I am weak, then I am strong.'"*

2 Corinthians 12: 9-10



June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9:30am Staff	4	5 6:30am Men's Group	6
7 10am Worship 11:30am Contemporary Worship - outside	8 7 pm Stephen Ministry	9 9:30am Staff	10	11	12 6:30am Men's Group	13
14 10am Worship 11:30am Contemporary Worship - outside	15	16 9:30am Staff	17	18 10am Matthew Study	19 6:30am Men's Group	20
21 10am Worship 11:30am Contemporary Worship	22 7 pm Stephen Ministry	23 9:30am Staff	24	25 10am Matthew Study	26 6:30am Men's Group	27
28 10am Worship 11:30am Contemporary Worship	29	30 9:30am Staff				

Reopening Plan

By Sam Sears

In the past few months we have all endured hardship of the Covid-19 outbreak, and the effects of our attempts to prevent spreading the disease. I'm excited to share with you our **reopening plan**. We know that Hebrews 10:25 records, "not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." The Christian life is meant to be lived in community, not isolation, and I look forward to seeing you in person again.

First things first, **not everyone should join us**: Let me be clear, we miss you. We want you here, but we want you safe. If you are battling cancer, if you have an autoimmune disease, if you are convinced due to another concern that for your own health you should wait a bit longer before joining us, then yes, you should. We are still available to run you something should you need it. We are here for you and look forward to when you can be with us in person.

STREAMING WILL CONTINUE. I've been thankful that we have been able to get our services streaming on facebook, and on youtube after the fact. Judy, Brent, Chuck and more have made this possible. We will continue to try and improve our streaming quality and our working hard to stream directly to youtube when our technology will allow it.

While our local sheriff first promised not to prosecute, and our the county of Tulare as voted to open back up, there is still a state ban and there are recommendations by health officials, government officials, and legal organizations, like Pacific Justice Institute, that we will strive to follow.

This will be a staged reopening. For those who can be here in person, Sunday May 31st we will be having one outdoor service, and one streaming service. 10:00 will be streaming. @ 11:30 we invite you to drive into our North (Douglas side) parking lot. Face the building, roll down the windows, and join us. We have a piece of equipment on the way that will allow us to broadcast to the radios in your vehicles.

You **may bring your own chairs**, but for the purpose of meeting safety and sanitization guidelines, we will not be providing chairs on the 31st. If you have your own chairs you may set out In the yard or parking lot and enjoy.

If you feel comfortable doing so, wear a mask, be aware that we are not making it a requirement, and so I'd expect some individuals not to wear mask.

Try to use the bathroom before you come. While our facilities will be open, we want to ease people into group contact, and minimize it.

Continue to respect each other's distances as we ease back into this.

We will not be passing an offering plate but you can continue to give online.

We have individualized pre packaged communion wafers and juice that

Reopening Plan

By Sam Sears

will be handed out to you by someone wearing gloves.

No song sheets will be handed out, but we will make lyrics available online.

We are making an effort to ease into the services, Here will be some next steps for Sunday Mornings:

- After 2-3 weeks outside, we will move into the sanctuary using every third row for 2-3 weeks, then every other row, then back to normal.
- Once we get inside the building it will be 3-6 weeks before we relaunch children's ministry. Children share more germs, and then bring them home.
- These plans are based on Pacific Justice Institute's recommendations, as well as state and federal guidelines.
- Other ministries, like the Men's Friday morning Breakfast is restarting this Friday, and each small group leader will make their own call as when to restart.
- The building has been fogged with a disinfecting fog by Moonlight Cleaning services.
- We have hand sanitizer dispensers on order.
- If you have any questions, feel free to ask.



Blessings,
-Sam



Attendance & Giving

May 2020

Date	Attendance	Giving
May 3		\$3,730.00
May 10		\$4,693.00
May 17 & 24		\$6,000.00
May 31		\$2,861.00
Online Giving		\$6,325.00
Total		\$23,609.00



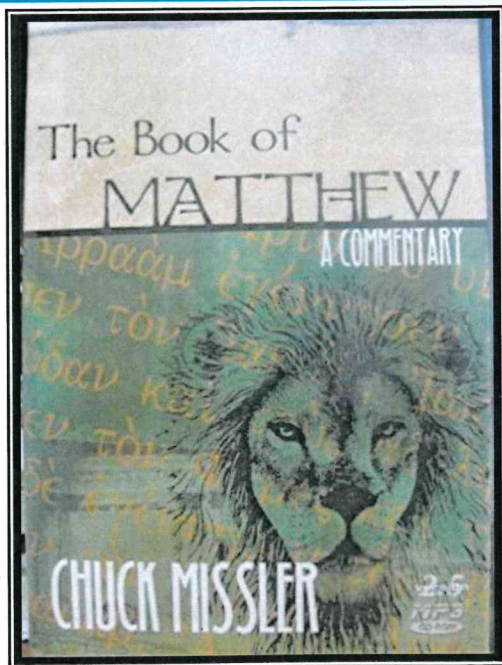
Matthew Study to Resume

June 18, 2020

Tim and June Glick will resume their weekly study of the book of Matthew, led by Chuck Missler, on June 18th. This week they will be on the eighth session studying chapter twelve.

Everyone is welcome, please join us!

This is a weekly study on Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Fireside room. If you have questions please contact the office at 559-732-06623.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

June 2020

David Ajluni	5
Peggy Jones	9
Kevin Ronk	9
Henry Thomas	12
Anna Tollison	12
Chris Stone	14
Lauren Huff	15
David Thomas	16
Warren Turl	16
Roger Johnson	19
Alina Garcia	22
JoAnne Henderson	23
June Glick	26
Carolyn Subejano	27
Barbara Kay Grant	29

Happy Anniversary!

Caleb & Karen Gunning	3
Charles & Marilee Douglass	11
David & Melissa Thomas	14
Bill & Debbie Bianchi	18
Larry & June Lewis	25

Prayer Concerns

June 2020

Pray for the desire and opportunity to effectively share your faith!

Our Nation and Leaders

Teachers & Students in Visalia

Health

Ana Morales, Ashley Banuelos, Barbara Grant, Carolyn Moffitt, Cindy Marks, Donna Eastin, Frank Henley, Jean Lamb, Kevin Guy, Pam Shattuck, Pauline Gurule, Rick Hamilton, Ruth Kurihara, Fred Wilder, Sandy Zinger

Cancer

Charles Douglass, Harley King, Hazel Bahrenburg, Jiggy Greene, Jim Ramsey, Joe Grant, Joe Ryan, Michael Elder, Mike Brazil, Olly Ajluni, Shannan Ajluni

Other Needs

Debbie Englebrecht (back surgery), Nina Suttles (Vision)

Military

Andie Richwine (Marine, injury), Brett Boland - Virginia, Jason Mariel - Afghanistan, Matthew Calhoun - Fort Knox, Michael Reid - Fort Worth, TX, Preston Correa - Marines, RJ Ajluni - Navy