

Pastor D's Letter January 16, 2022

The other day I was talking with a friend from Phoenix. He shared how he and a friend at his church were going to co-teach a Sunday school class on 1 and 2 Peter. I shared with him about the Sunday school class I will be teaching starting this Sunday, January 16th, "**COLD CASE CHRISTIANITY**". I mentioned that we were inviting whole families to come and learn together. I told him about J Warner Wallace, the forensic detective who came to faith as he used his skills in forensics to examine the Christian faith. We talked about how learning that your faith could be proven, could help you share your faith with others.

Then I shared with him that in addition to Sunday school, on Wednesday nights I was teaching through the Gospel of Luke, and on Sunday's we were spending "A Year With Jesus". He paused and then said, "That all goes together." I smiled and said, "I planned it that way." Then we both laughed and he said, "Of course you did."

**"I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11**

It should not surprise you to hear that God has plans, for you! Hopefully like me, you find comfort in knowing God has a plan. Despite the uncertain Covid filled world we live in God is in control working out His plan for our lives. God's plan center on one simple desire, God wants us to **TRUST HIM!** God wants us to **KNOW HIM**, and have peace because He is with us. **TRUST HIM**, and receive His gift of salvation through faith. "For by grace we have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God not as a result of works, so that no-one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV)

God has plans. And God's plans are for our good and not for evil. God's plans give us **HOPE** and promise us a **FUTURE!** As you face this uncertain world, hold onto that promise from God's word. May this simple truth grant you peace this coming week and beyond.

And now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
So that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13)

Dr. D

P.S. I hope you will take advantage of the Sunday School Class on Cold Case Christianity so you can learn how to defend and share you faith. It is a great way to talk about your faith with the whole family. I also hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to walk with Jesus this year, through studying the Gospel of Luke on Wednesday nights and by coming to worship on Sunday mornings. During January and February our "Year With Jesus" will focus on "Temptations Jesus Faced".

NEWS UPDATES

- Join us for **Fellowship after church** in the Fellowship Hall.
- **WWN Bible Study this Wednesday (January 19th) Luke 2.**
- **MASKS ARE OPTIONAL** IN WORSHIP! Be considerate of those who choose to wear masks and maintain social distance.
- If you cannot come in person, we continue to broadcast our **SERVICE LIVE** every Sunday at 9 a.m. on <https://www.facebook.com/SierraVistaPresbyterianChurch/>. Our account is public. **YOU DO NOT NEED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO WATCH.** If you come to worship in person or watch at home, **invite a friend to join you.**
- If you watch on Facebook, **Worship sheets** are available on our website at <https://www.sierravistayuma.com/> under the NEWS Tab.
- If you wish to receive the monthly **newsletter** or know someone who wants to receive **Pastor D's Letter**, contact the church office with your email information.
- **THANK YOU for your CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT** of the church by giving in person, mailing a check, or giving ONLINE.