

Party time

Dan Nelson

Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley

One of the principles in the Scriptures that some people don't expect to find in the Bible is a command to have a party. But actually, the concept of celebrating life landmarks is an essential fundamental of Scripture, especially when one is commemorating God's sovereign faithfulness.

When the children of Israel were delivered from the bondage of slavery, they celebrated. When they got into their promised land, they threw a party. God commanded some festivities to be annual affairs so that people would not forget what happened. Throughout the Scriptures we find God reminding folks of his faithfulness. When amnesia sets in, rebellion soon follows. One might be surprised to realize that, in the right context, throwing a party can actually be a spiritual act of worship to God.

My wife and I commemorate the anniversary day of our wedding with a purposeful celebration. This is to keep the memory of our love and commitment to one another fresh in our minds and celebrate God's blessings in our lives. We throw a party for each of our children's birthdays as an annual reminder to thank God for the day they were born. What a great opportunity to celebrate the people in our lives. We give presents to communicate our love and value for each person God placed in our family.

As a church, we are at a landmark anniversary and it is time to celebrate. Calvary Chapel just hit 10 years of Sunday worship services and is celebrating 12 years of ministry here in the Ojai Valley. I had no idea when we first started in 1998 what God had in store. I am grateful to so many friends across the valley that have supported us in some way over the years. We are hosting a party this Sunday afternoon and the whole town is invited. It's called "A Country Fair at Calvary Ojai." I hope you'll come.

I am pretty involved in Christian music and get to emcee my share of concerts but it is usually not of the country genre. But world-renowned flat picker Dennis Agajanian will come to celebrate with us, so for this Sunday, one might think I had a bit of the Midwest in me after all. Yee-ha!

I don't know how I'll do at the gunny sack race or the pie-eating contest, but I am willing to give it a try and find out. It's not very often that I get to have this kind of adventure. In the Bible, these God-sanctioned parties often became feasts of fabulous food. Well, we believe in the teachings of the Bible so we thought we better break out the barbecue and do it right. In the Scriptures, it would not be uncommon to see the priest cooking the meal, but if you come, you will be comforted to find me standing at a safe distance far away from

the grill. But, to know one's limitations and admit deficiencies is a Bible lesson for a different article on another day.

What has God done for you that you need to celebrate? Don't let time pass by without stopping to appreciate what God has accomplished in your life. And if you are available on Sunday afternoon, come celebrate with me what God is doing at Calvary Ojai.

To read other articles by Pastor Dan visit [Ojai Valley News Articles](#)

Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



P.O. Box 1443
Ojai, CA 93024
(805) 640-9498
www.calvaryojai.org

Sunday Worship:

9:00 & 10:45am
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

Mid-Week Study:

7:00pm Thursday
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View