

Are You Worried Yet?

It would seem that everywhere we turn, we're being told that we should be worried about something. If you watch the news, then they're telling us that we should be worried about the economy, politics, homelessness, world hunger, endangered animal species, the environment, our health and the weather. If you watch the commercials in between the newscast, then we're to be concerned about having the right clothes, shoes, houses or cars. They tell us that we should worry about our savings and investments or our children might not get to go to college. We're told we need insurance for our house, car, teeth, eyes, ears, and anything else that might fail us. We can now purchase insurance in case our car's transmission breaks or the refrigerator goes on the blink. They say we need to have a certain lawyer's number handy just in case we're injured in an accident. Are you worried yet? The truth is that we spend a lot of our time worrying about things that never come to pass and as Christians, we are not to be a worrying people. We have put our trust, not in the securities of physical life, but in God. Jesus said, "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" He then said, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow..." (Matthew 6:31-34). Now does that mean that we should be "happy-go-lucky" through life without a concern in the world? Certainly, we are to be concerned about our relationship with God, raising our families, being good stewards over our blessings, and helping our fellow man. But not to the point that it cripples us into a state of ineffectiveness. The bible tells us not to worry, but in everything give thanks to God and His peace, which surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts through Jesus Christ. (Philippians 4:6-7). We can have confidence and ease our worries because, as Peter wrote, we can cast all our cares upon God because He cares for us. (1 Peter 5:6) ~Jay Lanius, Maud Church of Christ

Kennewick Church of Christ

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336
509-783-4013

Website: www.Kennewickcoc.com

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: kenncoc@gmail.com

Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; Vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

September 12, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Will Your Anchor Hold?

The song "Will Your Anchor Hold?" is asking the question of your resolve. It also points to the anchor that has been afforded to us as servants of God. We have a confidence that none other can possess. However, it is conditional.

The reason for our confidence is mentioned in Hebrews 6:13-20. This passage begins by examining the example of Abraham (Heb. 6:13-15). God made a promise to Abraham. "Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice'" (Gen. 22:15-18). On this occasion, we see the faith of Abraham because of his obedience. "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, 'In Isaac your descendants shall be called.' He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type" (Heb. 11:17-19).

Hebrews also references the best-case scenario for men making an oath as well (6:16). We know that everything we say should be considered as binding as an oath. "Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil" (Matt. 5:36-37).

God was able to make an oath by something stronger. "In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us" (Heb. 6:17-18). We are those that "have taken refuge," and we are those that have "hope set before us"! This hope is "an anchor of the soul" and "sure and steadfast." This is all conditional "if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end" (Heb. 3:6).

Don't let your mind leave this thought without answering the question, "Will my anchor hold?" We have that anchor that enters the veil, the figure of God's presence. We have also been promised help. "Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16). This is something that we have as children of God. ~Josh Blackmer

<i>Keep These Dates in Mind</i>	<i>September Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	
Sept 19 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship	Craig & Debbie Bolt 9/1 Jack Danley 9/18	<i>Today is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.</i> <i>Rejoice in the Lord and again, J say, rejoice.</i>

Those with ongoing health Issues:

Pansy Caywood , Shirley Childers, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Jim Preston

Bible Studies

<i>Adult Bible Classes</i> Sunday a – 1 Samuel Wed p – Minor Prophets	<i>Young Adults class- Teen Room</i> (led by Danny Mendoza)	<i>Ladies Class</i> (Contact Sandi Gray for information)
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For those of you who know **the Peery's** from the Richland Church of Christ, their son died of Covid on Friday 9/3. Our prayers are with them as they go through this time of sadness.

Al and Pat Lindsay still are not having any symptoms even though they both tested positive for the Covid virus. They are still in quarantine until Tuesday.

Linda and Bill Lafferty are fighting Covid. Please keep them in your prayers.

Queca Woods' Daughter and her family are fighting Covid. Tony and Queca were exposed but Tony tested negative and Queca has no symptoms. Queca's sister in Peru has Septicemia and the prognosis for recovery is not good. She as asked for prayers for her entire family.

This week's potluck was postponed until next week when we will have a guest speaker, a man who is trying out to work with our congregation here in Kennewick. They will be here Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

As of this publication, we are having Bible study on Wednesday as well as evening services tonight for all those who are well enough to attend.

Our Ministries

Mountain States Children's Home

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Peru Ministry – Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

Food Pantry - If you are in need of food assistance, please contact one of the men of the congregation and they will be able to help you with this need.

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” (Proverbs 19:17)

They Hear Your Words but They Do Not Do them

“As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, 'Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord.' So, they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. Indeed, you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them. And when this comes to pass--surely it will come--then they will know that a prophet has been among them” (Ezekiel 33:30-33).

Does God's Word have an effect on my life? God certainly intends it to. Through the prophet Isaiah, God said, “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11).

As we come to the 33rd chapter of the book of Ezekiel, it appears Ezekiel had been ministering to God's people for over 7 years (cf. Ezekiel 1:2; 33:21). As he prophesied to God's people who had already been taken captive by the Babylonians, he clearly warned them that Jerusalem was soon to fall to the Babylonians (Ezekiel 4:1-6:14). Yet, did God's people heed this warning?

At this point in his ministry Ezekiel learns that Jerusalem has been captured by the Babylonians: “And it came to pass in the twelfth year of our captivity, in the tenth month, on the fifth day of the month, that one who had escaped from Jerusalem came to me and said, ‘The city has been captured!’” (Ezekiel 33:22). However, notice the reaction of God's people back in ruins of what was left of the Promised Land. They were saying, “Abraham was only one, and he inherited the land. But we are many; the land has been given to us as a possession” (Ezekiel 33:24). They did not want to accept God's message and embrace the reality that they had lost their inheritance. Again, God tells them these were the consequences of their abominations (Ezekiel 33:25-29).

In Babylon, God's people were, likewise, having difficulty in actually listening to God's message as well. As the opening verses above indicate, God's people HEARD God's Word through the prophet Ezekiel, but did not HEED God's Word. In fact, it appears they ENJOYED listening to what Ezekiel had to say, but they had no desire to APPLY the prophet's message to their lives. Ezekiel was to them as a “lovely song of one who had a pleasant voice”. With their mouths they would show much love, but their hearts were in selfish pursuit of their own gain (Ezekiel 33:31-32).

I wonder how often I have a heard a sermon or lesson from God's Word and thought, “What a nice message” and then walked away and failed to apply it to my life. James warns us, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was” (James 2:22-24). It is great when one enjoys hearing God's Word, but it is essential that one be sure to apply God's Word to their lives. Today, I will strive to not only hear God's Word, but also to heed God's Word! ~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley C of C