

Heaven

“This world is not my home!” Aren’t you glad! Doesn’t that just make all the difference in your day knowing that “there’s a beautiful place called heaven” that is “reserved” for you (1 Pet. 1:4-5)! The very thought of heaven...the very thought that we do not deserve to be in that place for even one second...the very thought that God longs for us to be there with Him forever...the very thought that we can dwell in His blessed presence throughout eternity...is just TOO much! It is a “joy” that is “inexpressible and full of glory” (1 Pet. 1:8).

Do you ever get down? Do you ever get distracted by this world? Do you ever get frustrated by all that is happening around us? The writer of Hebrews spoke of “knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven” (Heb. 10:34). There is no “better” life than being a Christian, but Paul said that (in comparison) getting to go and “be with Christ” is “very far better” (Phil. 1:23). May we (as the word is literally translated in Hebrews 11:16) “stretch out after” that “better country”!

~David Sproule

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. (Ephesians 4:1-7)

Kennewick Church of Christ

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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:

Bill Gregory (360)710-0449
billgreg67@gmail.com

Bill Gregory’s office hours are from 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. (Please call to make sure he is in before stopping by)

Attendance 03/28: 35

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution: 03/28: \$4392.25

April 04, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Failure to “Purchase Tickets” for “Noah’s Cruise

That there will be final appearance before God and a final judgment is obviously taught in the Bible. It is not that in some vague way, open to various interpretations, that somehow men might be brought into His presence. The Scriptures are filled with clear statements which leave no doubt about that final judgment.

Listen to the finality of these words from heaven. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” (2 Cor 5:10). “For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ” (Rom. 14:10). “He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness” (Acts 17:31). It is an eternal truth that it will happen.

In view of how sick and spiritually depraved our world has become, why has He not already come? There were those in the first century who thought He should have come and concluded that the Lord had made a promise to return and failed to keep it. In Peter’s second epistle, he writes about this and then gives the reason why He had not come in their day. It is the same reason He has not returned in our day.

There were those who looked around them and concluded that “...since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were” (2 Pet. 3:4). Peter said that those who were saying this had forgotten what had happened in the past. They had done it on purpose (v. 5). It is so easy to fail to see the big picture of God’s dealings with man. The apostle pointed them to the flood in Noah’s day. God’s view of that ancient world was vastly different from those who heard Noah’s preaching. God kept His promise, and the flood came!

Why did He delay? Read God’s words about this question, and you will have a better understanding about the reason He has not come even in our day. “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9). Think of it in these terms. There was room on the ark for many more than Noah and his family, but not one single person wanted to “purchase the ticket.”

The implication of these truths? We live in a world where it is widely believed that the world has nothing to do with a Creator but is the result of an evolutionary process. God has made us, and we live, walk and have our very existence because of Him (Acts 17:28). Why does He delay of the final judgment? Because *He is not willing that any should perish*. He waits as we try to teach those around us. He has delayed His return because He is waiting for us to tell others about sin and salvation. He is counting on us. We must not fail to be part of saving just one more soul for Him. ~Dan Jenkins

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (Philippians 2:1-3).

Keep These Dates in Mind	March Birthdays and Anniversaries					
<p>Since we have entered into this time of uncertainty with those in the government asking us to keep our assemblies to a minimum and to use caution and discretion as we meet, any activities that may be planned will be announced in a timely fashion a week before they are planned to happen and will be put out on the call multiplier.</p> <p>Sandy Gray has volunteered to put out an informational email during the week to update the church of immediate prayer needs or information that needs to be disseminated before/in-between our scheduled meeting times. If you wish to be on this list, please contact her and give her your email information.</p>	Avi Botts 4/3 Joe Wilson 4/10 Al & Pat Lindsay 4/12 Naomi McCown 4/15 LaVerne & Sammie Engelke 4/18 Leroy Pierce 4/22 Eunice Petross 4/25		James Lindholm 4/26 Jim Henry 4/28			
<p>Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Marilyn Davis, Sandy Gray, Fran Henniger, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Shannon Mendoza,, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce Michael Stimson, Jim Preston</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bible Studies</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td data-bbox="522 556 777 664">Adult Bible Classes Sunday a - Judges Sunday p - Romans Wed p - John</td> <td data-bbox="777 556 980 664">Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room</td> <td data-bbox="980 556 1235 664">Ladies Class Thursday 10:00 a</td> </tr> </table>			Adult Bible Classes Sunday a - Judges Sunday p - Romans Wed p - John	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Thursday 10:00 a
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In Our Prayers

Linda Lafferty is home but will have to have daily medication for the next five weeks and will be confined to the house.

Bob Harman is home from the hospital and back in assisted living. He would like card and visits as he continues to recuperates from pneumonia and as he deals with the loss of Barbara. Keep him, the Harman's and the Tipps family in your prayers as they are going through this hard time in their lives.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. (Ps. 24:3-6)

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 - Our food pantry is located in the small room next to the library.
 "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

Dealing With Discouragement

"... and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' So, he said, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life'" (1 Kings 19:9-10).

Elijah the prophet was a great man of God. He was God's spokesman who faced the great challenge of trying to lead Israel back to God at a time when the forces of government opposed him and God's people had backslidden into idol worship. He was a great man of faith who, when he called upon God to cause it not to rain in order to chasten God's people to see the error of their ways, God answered his prayer by causing it not to rain for 3 ½ years (1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17-18). Elijah courageously opposed the wicked King Ahab and won a great challenge against the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel in order to get the people of Israel to see and proclaim that "The Lord, He is God!" (1 Kings 18:22-40). Elijah would be rewarded for his faithfulness to God by not having to experience death as he was called up to heaven in a chariot of fire (2 Kings 2:11). The apostles James, Peter, and John would later see Elijah at the transfiguration of Christ (Matthew 17:1-3).

However, as great a man of faith as Elijah was, he was a man who struggled with discouragement. As the opening verses above indicate, following his challenge against the 450 prophets of Baal and Jezebel's vow to take Elijah's life, Elijah becomes very discouraged. He felt like he was all alone. He believed in his heart that there were no more faithful followers of God. In fact, his despair is so great that he prayed that he might die and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" (1 Kings 19:4). He was so depressed he wanted to die!

God intervened to encourage his faithful follower, Elijah. God sends an angel to give him nourishment (1 Kings 19:5-8). However, Elijah's struggle with discouragement is not over (1 Kings 19:9-10). God has Elijah stand on the mountain before the Lord to witnesses a great and strong wind, an earthquake, and a fire (1 Kings 19:11-12a). After witnessing these strong and mighty acts of the Lord, Elijah will hear the Lord speak to him in a "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12a-18). In the midst of all these awesome acts of the Lord (i.e. great wind, earthquake, and fire) and in the midst of all the crazy things happening in Israel, what Elijah needed to do was to take heed to carefully listen to God's voice. As God speaks to Elijah, He says, "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him" (1 Kings 19:18).

As I consider Elijah, and the challenges he faced in serving God in the midst of a godless nation, it is easy for me to relate to him as I serve God today. It is difficult to serve God when so many around you walk contrary to God's Will and you receive little encouragement to remain faithful to God from other people. It is easy to become discouraged when trying to serve God in such circumstances.

However, like Elijah, I need to take time to listen to God's "still small voice". When everything appears to be tumultuous around me, I need to reflect upon the promises He has made to me. I also need to remember there are faithful servants of God who have not "bowed the knee to Baal" and be encouraged by them. Today, I will rejoice that God still speaks to me through His Word in a "still small voice" and I will rejoice in my brethren who continue to strive to serve God faithfully! ~Daily Devo, SV Church of Christ