

The Lost Envelope

We were on the way home from a visit with family in another state when I found it. I was pumping gas when I noticed a dirty, bulky envelope on the ground. I grabbed it, dirt and all, and looked inside. To my surprise, it contained one hundred dollars.

One hundred dollars that someone had lost and who at that very moment was possibly frantically searching to find. I gave our phone number to the attendants at the gas station in case anyone came back looking for it. But no one ever called.

Someone had that money and lost it. Earthly treasure is often like that. It can be lost, stolen, or even squandered. It can be lost in bad investments or even in a monetary market over which we have no control. But the heavenly treasure we have in Jesus—a restored relationship with God and the promise of eternal life—isn't like that. We can't lose it at a gas station or anywhere else.

That's why Christ told us to store up "treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20). We do that when we become "rich in good deeds" (1 Timothy 6:18) or "rich in faith" (James 2:5)—lovingly helping others and sharing Jesus with them. As God leads and empowers us, may we store up eternal treasure even as we anticipate our eternal future with Him. ~ Dave Branon

Kennewick Church of Christ

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

Website: www.Kennewickcofc.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:

Open Congregational meeting – 2nd Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome

Attendance 12/01 NA

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 12/01 \$2047.80

December 08, 2019

Kennewick Church of Christ



I Am Glad He Was Born But . . .

We are at that time of the year when much of the world is focusing on the events surrounding the birth of a child in Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago. The Catholic church created the celebration of Jesus' birth and linked it to a Christ-Mass. The very name is evidence that it was not a celebration known by the early church, but it originated hundreds of years later and was tied to the mass of Catholicism.

Many are so glad He was born because it is so easy to love baby Jesus. The events surrounding the birth of a child are fascinating, but none are more fascinating than the events of Jesus' birth. The baby in the manger and the visit of the shepherds and the wise men are well known, even by those who do not have any faith in Jesus. Baby Jesus is so easy to love.

Many are so glad He was born because babies make no demand of them. It is so easy to love those who do not demand our time or attention. All babies are cute, and others, except their parents or care givers, can enjoy being around them because they can just walk away from infants whenever they like. Baby Jesus is like that. The shepherds and the wise men came to where He was and simply walked away anytime they liked. Baby Jesus is great and so lovable as long as we are in control.

Many are so glad He was born, but that all changes when He gets older. Do you recall how amazed the religious leaders were when young Jesus talked to them in the temple? It was these same leaders who loved young Jesus who later put Him to death. It is rather fascinating that so many today have this same relationship to Jesus. They love talking about Him when He was little, but really have trouble when He is old enough to talk back to them!

Many are so glad He was born, but lose sight of the real reason He came. The early church did not focus on the birth of Jesus, but on His death and resurrection. Peter proclaimed Jesus as the Lord and the Christ (Acts 2:36). Because Jesus is Lord, Peter commanded his listeners to repent/change in the name of Jesus. Baby Jesus is one thing, but Lord Jesus is another. The only hope this world has is not found in a baby in a manger, but in a Savior on the cross. He left the manger to go to the cross, but He left the cross to go to a throne where He rules the world.

Many are so glad He was born and focus on it, but the early church focused on His cross. They assembled every Sunday to remember Him—not as a helpless, undemanding infant but as an Almighty Savior. Imagine how Christendom would change dramatically if we focused on Him as Lord instead of as a baby! ~Dan Jenkins

And behold there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead."

Keep These Dates in Mind	December Birthdays and Anniversaries		
12/01 First Sunday Potluck 12/14 Men's breakfast and fellowship 12/15 Open Congregational Meeting 5p 12/29 Kennewick hosting the 5 th Sunday singing 01/05 First Sunday Potluck 01/11 Men's breakfast and fellowship 01/12 Open Congregational Meeting 5p	Mark Minor 12/4 Sandi Gray 12/14 Bill & Linda Lafferty 12/24	<i>Courage is not having the strength to go on: It is going on when you don't have the strength.</i> Theodore Roosevelt	
	Bible Studies		
Today's Speaker Danny Mendoza Tonight's Video: Has the Bible Been Corrupted (7 Of 9) – Dave Miller	Adult Bible Classes Sunday am.–Exodus Wed pm – Fruits of the Spirit/Works of the Flesh	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Th. 10-11:30am

Issues (ongoing): Karen McBurney, Shirley Childers, Marji Lindholm, Marilyn Davis, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington, Karen McBurney

Shirley Childers and **Loretta Slettene** are both in residential care homes. Both would appreciate cards and visits.

All generations invited: Holiday party, Friday, December 20, at the building. Fun, Food and Fellowship.

Keep the elders in your prayers as they continue to look for a minister to work with our congregation. Both men who came to discuss the position have decided not to accept the work here in Kennewick.



Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon You, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your Souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

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)

Petu 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)

Austin and Kennadie McCrickard – Bear Valley Bible Institute

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Not Shaken by These Afflictions

"Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this" (1 Thessalonians 3:1-3).

Job said, "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). Troubles are the common lot of everyone who has inhabited this earth. We all face our share of afflictions. How do we handle these challenges? Do they have a negative or positive impact upon our faith in God?

As the opening passage above indicates, when the apostle Paul wrote to the Christians at the church in Thessalonica, he had concerns that the afflictions faced by the Christians there would negatively impact their faith. Why did Paul have these concerns? He understood the power afflictions can have upon turning people away from God. Remember, it was Jesus, Who, when He taught the Parable of the Sower, described the seed which fell among thorns by saying, "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles" (Matthew 13:20-21).

From its beginning, the church at Thessalonica had faced persecution. Shortly after the church was established there, a mob had set the city in an uproar and accused Paul and other Christians saying, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too" (Acts 17:6). Paul and Silas had to flee for their lives by night and leave the city (Acts 17:10). Before he left Paul had warned the Christians at Thessalonica that they too would suffer tribulation (1 Thessalonians 3:4).

Paul now desperately wants to know how they are holding up under this affliction. Do they have root in themselves or, are they like the stony soil of which Jesus spoke, whose faith withers away under persecution because of the Word (cf. Matthew 13:20-21)? When he can no longer endure waiting for this answer, Paul sends Timothy to see how they are doing (1 Thessalonians 3:1-2, 5).

What does Paul find out from Timothy's report? Timothy reports to Paul that these Christians are holding up well in their afflictions. Paul writes, "But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you" (1 Thessalonians 3:6). In fact, this report greatly encourages Paul in his faith: "Therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. For now, we live, if you stand fast in the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 3:7-8).

All of us will face our share of adversity. The question is, "How will I let these afflictions affect me?" Will I let them cause my faith in God to wither as did the seed which fell among the stony soil or will I persevere through these afflictions and not only allow them to cause me to cling more tightly to my faith in God, but also result in my being an encouragement to the faith of others as well? These Christians at Thessalonica were not shaken by these afflictions and even encouraged Paul in his efforts to keep up the faith as well as he endured his own share of persecutions. Today, like the Christians in Thessalonica I will strive to not be shaken by these afflictions! ~Susquehanna Valley church of Christ

Christ the Lord is risen today, hallelujah