

Are You Being Cheated?

"You Cheater!!!" Most of us have heard those words. Whether they are heard on an elementary school playground or in a boardroom of some large corporation, they are usually spoken (yelled) in anger. We've probably all seen an old western movie where a fight (maybe even a gunfight) broke out, when somebody thought he had been cheated in a card game. We don't usually "take kindly" to being cheated.

Did you know that the Bible warns us about being cheated? Consider the New King James translation of Colossians 2:8: "*Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.*"

How about that? We can be cheated in the most important aspect of our lives – our relationship with God! Interestingly enough, this "cheating can be accomplished by what we are or are not taught.

Surely that must be why Paul made the following statements about his teaching to the elders from Ephesus: "...I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you..."(Acts 20:20). "...I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).

Paul's claim in Acts 20:26 that he was "...pure from the blood of all men," is another way of saying that he could not be successfully charged with cheating people out of anything they needed to know in order to please God.

Those of us who teach need to be aware of the terrific responsibility that is ours. It most certainly would not be good to be seen as a cheater in this area of our lives.

However, the responsibility is a "two-way street". Look at Colossians 2:8 again. Those who are receiving the teaching are being alerted to the danger of being cheated.

Are you being cheated? Are you sure? ~Jim Faughn

The Lord genuinely desires what is best for you and me. He wants to save us and to bless us, and for us to enjoy the heavenly rest that has been prepared for all who come to Him on His terms. But He cannot do anything for those who, through stubbornness or neglect are unwilling to listen and obey.

Kennewick Church of Christ

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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; cbotts@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)

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

Attendance 11/22: 45

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution: 11/22: \$2149.35

November 29, 2020

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Those Possessed by Sin Cannot Save Themselves

The apostle Paul wrote, "*Be not deceived. Evil companionships corrupt good morals*" (1Cor. 15:33). The sinner is dangerous to the society in which he lives, and especially to those closest to him. Absalom brought grief to his own father (2 Sam. 18:33). Judas, "*a trusted friend...*" betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12-13; 13:6). The sinner today, like the possessed man of the tombs [in Mark 5:1-20] hurts those closest to him. All one has to do is listen to the news to hear of the latest abuse of wives, children, animals and even road rage.

Few people realize the influence for good, or bad, that they have over the people they love. Jeroboam, king of Israel, was often called "*the man who made Israel to sin*" because of his departure from God's will into which the people followed. After Jeroboam's death, his son reigned. "*And he did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah, as his fathers had done: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, wherewith he made Israel to sin*" (2 Kings 15:9). Truly, like father, like son. The same pattern was followed in the life of Rehoboam, king of Judah, for it was said of his son, "*And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him; and his heart was not perfect with Jehovah his God, as the heart of David his father*" (1 Kings 15:3). A sinner today, though a loving husband and father, is likewise influencing his wife and children to "*walk in all the sins*" for which he sets the pattern! Friend, if you are walking in sin, those you love the most will be most influenced to follow you. The sinner is dangerous to those about him.

The man possessed by evil spirits, could not free himself. He was "*possessed*" and was thus under the control of Satan. In his "*right mind*" this man would not harm himself or others, as was proved after Jesus freed him from Satan's possession. He would not harm himself or others. If he was ever to be free, someone must set him free. And, so it is with us. We cannot free ourselves from the shackles of sin which Satan places upon us.

The prophet wrote, "*the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps*" (Jer. 10:23). It is stated plainly for us by Paul, "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Rom. 3:23). And, Jesus shows the result of a sinful life. "*Every one that committeth sin is the bondservant of sin*" (John 8:34). Satan has the sinner in bondage (Heb. 2:15) just as he had the possessed man under his control. Even though some claim they are free while in sin, they are bondservants of corruption" (2 Peter 2:39)

Jesus came to set us free from this bondage. "*Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free...if therefore the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed*" (John 8:32, 36). He left heaven and came to earth. He lived a perfect life and died as a sacrifice for us, that we might be free. "*But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness*" (Rom. 6:17-18). Christ cared for the possessed man, and set him free from the bondage to evil spirits. Christ cares for us, and He died to set us free from bondage to sin. No one else can make us free, only Jesus. "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the father, but by me...And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among me, wherein we must be saved.*"

The man possessed of evil spirits was dangerous to other. He hurt himself and could not be controlled by others or by himself. He could not save himself. The same is true with anyone under the influence of Satan today. But Jesus came and He offers freedom to all who will come to him (John 8:32, 36) ~Clem Thurman

Keep These Dates in Mind

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.

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.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Mark Minor	12/4
Sandi Gray	12/14
Bill Gregory	12/14
Kyle McCown	12/19
Bill and Linda Lafferty	12/24

Be happy not because everything is good, but because you can see the good side of everything.

Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes

Sunday a - O.T.
 Sunday p -James
 Wed p -Thessalonians

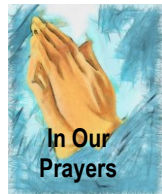
Youth Classes

Classroom Wing
Teen Class -
 Teen Room

Ladies Class

Thursday 10:00 a

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, Bill & Linda Lafferty's daughter-in-law, Michael Stimson, Fred Fleming, Hubbard Family



Lupe Mendoza has asked for extra prayers as she goes in for testing on her cancer, **The Lindholm family** (Wanda Danley's sister's family) are in need of special prayers at this time. Willis Lindholm as been diagnosed with prostate cancer on top of other family issues that are affecting the family at this time.

All those we have been praying for are healing and getting stronger daily. Thank God for his grace and love.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and any other commandment are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Rom 13:8-10)

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)

Walking Worthy of Our Calling

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3).

As Christians we have been called by God to be saved from our sins by being redeemed from our sins by the blood of Christ, can look forward to an inheritance prepared for us by God, and have been sealed by the Holy Spirit as we journey through the remainder of our time in this life on earth (Ephesians 1:4-6, 7, 11, 13-14). As the apostle Paul writes in the opening passage above, he encourages us to "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called" (Ephesians 4:1). What is our response to be to this high calling of God?

First, our response involves a profound appreciation and love for our fellow Christians. Paul describes we should walk "with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2-3). *By our love for one another, all the world will know we are Jesus' disciples*" (John 13:34-35).

Furthermore, walking worthy of our calling involves a deep gratitude of God's plan and the church which His Son established: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). Walking worthy of our calling leaves no room for one to want to add additional churches (i.e. bodies, Colossians 1:18), baptisms, faiths, etc. to God's plan!

Moreover, those who walk worthy of God understand they have a role to play and an area in which to serve to build up the Lord's church. While in Paul's day, many had miraculous gifts distributed to them by God (Ephesians 4:8-11), nonetheless, to each one of us today, God has given some unique ability or talent that we can use for the edifying or building up of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:7, 12, 16). Walking worthy of our calling involves our discovering our talent and using it to glorify God!

Finally, walking worthy of our calling involves a process of continual transformation on the part of each of us into thinking and conducting ourselves in a way that honors God. This involves our stopping behaving like those in the world. Paul writes, "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness". Though we have been saved by God's grace, we cannot continue to live sinful lifestyles (cf. Romans 6:1). We are called to be transformed (Romans 12:1-2). Paul adds that we should, "be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:23-24). Simply put: Walking worthy of God means living right!

It is interesting that Paul adds that failure to "walk worthy of our calling" results in grieving "the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30). I do not want to grieve God who loved me. I want to please God.

~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ