

## False Gods

A false god can be anything that means more to us than GOD. It can be anything that we spend too much time or money on, It can be anything that we turn to for comfort or deliverance other than the only true and living GOD.

### The problem with letting a false god into our lives is that it's so hard to get rid of him.

How sad the Lord must feel when we ask Him to step aside from the center of our hearts to make room for a house, a car, a computer or a career or anything else that takes control of our lives. May God give us the strength to overcome!

24Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. (Matt. 16:24-27)

*The Lord alone is God; there is no other besides him*

### Kennewick Church of Christ

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

Website: [www.kennewickcoc.com](http://www.kennewickcoc.com) Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ  
Church Email: kencoc@gmail.com

#### Meeting times:

##### Sunday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am  
Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

##### Wednesday:

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

##### Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com  
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; vern.engelke@gmail.com

##### Minister:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

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

Attendance 01/13: 59 | Budget \$2400.33 | Contribution 01/13 \$2702.00

January 20, 2019

## Kennewick Church of Christ

### The Rainbow Reminder that God Keeps His Promises

It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh" (Genesis 9:14-15).

Peter writes about the importance of the promises God makes: "As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:3-4). How can we be sure that God keeps these "great and precious promises"?

The opening verses above were spoken by God to Noah following the great flood that destroyed every living thing upon the earth except Noah and those who were with him in the ark (Genesis 9:13-15). Can you imagine what it must have been like for Noah and his family at that time?

Because the wickedness of man had become exceedingly great (Genesis 6:11-12), God had told Noah to build an ark because He was going to bring a flood upon the earth that would destroy all flesh (Genesis 13-14). It had not even rained on the earth at this time (cf. Genesis 2:4-6). Noah had to trust in God's promise that the rain would come and to come in such an overwhelming extent that it would flood the entire earth. Furthermore, he had to trust that the ark, whose design God had instructed Noah on how to build (Genesis 6:14-16), would float and be able to withstand this flood.

Noah clung to these promises of God as he, his family, and the animals entered the ark. Moreover, can you imagine what it must have been like for Noah and his family while they were in the ark? The massive downpour of rain and the rising of the flood waters must have been scary to behold. In addition, as the ark rose and was tossed about by the great flood, thoughts of wondering how this would all end must have entered in the hearts and minds of Noah's family. Yet, they all endured this great trial because they trusted in God's promises that He would save them (cf. Genesis 6:17-18).

After spending more than a year in the ark (cf. Genesis 7:11; 8:13-14), Noah, his family, and the animals that were with them exit the ark. As he does so, what does Noah do? He acknowledges God by building an altar and worshipping God: "Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar" (Genesis 8:20). Noah rejoiced that God had been faithful to keep all the promises He had made to him.

As God smells the aroma of the sacrifices which Noah had made upon the altar, He makes a promise that He will never again bring a flood to destroy all the earth (Genesis 8:21-22). Moreover, as the opening verses above indicate, He set His rainbow in the clouds so that all men may be forever reminded that God is faithful to keep His promises (Genesis 9:11-17).

Like Noah, we face trials in our lives. As we face these challenges, we must cling to God's promises. Today, I rejoice because, by the rainbow in the sky, I am reminded that no matter how great the obstacles I must overcome, I can trust in God because God is faithful to keep His promises.

"Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us" (Hebrews 6:17-18).

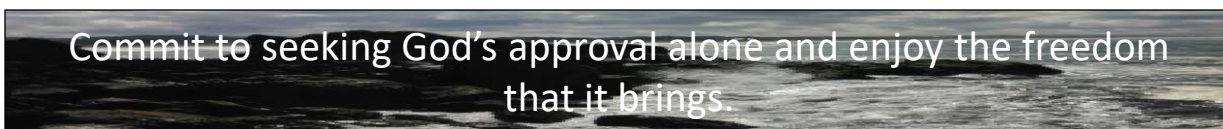
~Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ, Daily Devotional)

<b>Keep These Dates in Mind</b>	<b>January Birthdays and Anniversaries</b>		
<b>01/06</b> First Sunday Potluck 01/12 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 01/13 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 01/16 Soup Night <b>02/03</b> First Sunday Potluck 02/09 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 02/10 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p	Hannah Minor 1/5 Linda Lafferty 1/8 Gayle Caldwell 1/12 Holden Minor 1/15 Henry Walker 1/18 Larry Moore 1/19	Mary Beth Walker 1/22 Shirley Childers 1/24 Eddie & Eunice Petross 1/24 Loretta Slettene 1/26 Mary Lewis 1/27 Casey Berry 1/28 Hannah Mendoza 1/29 Nadine Mohr 1/19	
For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me; you take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in the Lord. (Ps. 31:1-6)	<b>Bible Studies</b>		
	<b>Adult Bible Classes</b> Sunday a.m.–Ephesians Wednesday – Acts 1-12	<b>Youth Classes</b> Classroom Wing <b>Teen Class -</b> Teen Room	<b>Ladies Class</b> Thursday 10:00a.m – 11:30a.m.



**Issues (ongoing):** Karen McBurney, Bob Childers, Shirley Childers, Kaleb McCrickard, Vern Mast, Sue Aldrich, Marji Lindholm, The Johnson family, Marilyn Davis, Randy Hargus, Eunice Petros, Shawna Stephens, Tami Pennington

Keep our lectureship in your prayers. It is scheduled for May.



### **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)

#### **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)

### **Bereans and Thessalonians**

A very notable verse of Scripture is found in Acts 17. Here we find Paul preaching to both Jews and Gentiles in Berea. Luke compliments the Bereans as he says in 17: 11 "These were more fair-minded (noble-KJV) than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Notice that Luke calls them "noble", or "fair-minded, and he bases his assessment of them on two actions taken by them: (1) "they received the Word with ail readiness. (2) they "searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were SO.

Now let's go over to 1 Thessalonians. Luke has just told us in Acts 17:11 that the Thessalonians didn't measure up to the Bereans. However, as we read Paul's letter to the Christians of Thessalonica, we must conclude that the comparison in Acts 17 was with the unbelieving Jews of Thessalonica, and not with those who became Christians there. I call your attention particularly to 1Thessalonians 2:13: "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it no! as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

Paul makes it very clear just why it is that he esteems them so highly their acceptance of and attitude toward the Word of God, the Bible. Surely it is obvious that the church today needs to emulate those who became Christians in both Berea and Thessalonica by being careful students of God's Word. We owe it, both to ourselves and to the Lord, to weigh and measure all that we hear and read by the standard of the Bible. Sometimes well-meaning folks may want to see some thing or idea implemented in a congregation, and when it is objected to, their defensive response may be, "What's wrong with it?"

I want to kindly suggest that that is the wrong question. I believe that the more proper question would be, "Is it authorized by the Bible?" We must have Biblical support for our beliefs and practices. Those who preach and teach will certainly be held accountable for what they say (James 3:1). But, we as hearers are also responsible for comparing what we hear with what the Bible says on the subject. If the Bible endorses the teaching, we are obligated to accept it. If the teaching is in conflict with the Bible, we must reject it. Most unfortunately, it continues to be true in the 21st century just as it was in the 1st century, that there are occasionally those who are not so well-meaning who come along with new doctrines and plans in an effort to gain followers for themselves, rather than for Christ. This is not merely a charge that comes from rash and harsh self-righteous judgmentalism.

It is a factual reality borne out in Scripture. If we are faithful to the example of the Bereans and Thessalonians, we will already be familiar with the heart-rending warning that the apostle Paul stated regarding not only false teachers in general, but even regarding elders in the church, as he poured out his heart to the elders of the Ephesus congregation in Acts 20:27-31, "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

In the Old Testament both Isaiah (30:10) and Jeremiah (12:6) told of some folks who desired "smooth words".

We all like to hear those words that are smooth, that are soothing to our ears. We can sometimes eat something that really tastes great when we eat it, but it may cause indigestion for hours after-wards. Smooth words can likewise sound really great when we hear them, but they may cause us untold heartache later. The words of the Lord are truth, and are not always smooth. I'm sure that many of us have heard the saying that "attitude determines altitude," and there's a lot of truth in that. Let me suggest that attitude will also determine our eternal destiny. This begins with our attitude toward God's Inspired Word. May God help us all to be fully committed to letting the Bible be our sole authority in all matters pertaining to Christianity. ~Byron Nichols