

The Healing Trees

"And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing." Ezekiel 47:12
This picture should be familiar to us. John uses this imagery as he describes the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 22:1-2..

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

The river John saw is the same one Ezekiel saw. The tree of life in Revelation is the life-giving tree in Ezekiel. The pictures are the same.

One of the ways that the Lord brings healing to the nations is through his people. So the question to you and me is whether we are bringing healing to this world, by bearing fruit and showing forth the light of the glory of Christ Jesus through our lives so that others might come to know him.

Great God and Father, from whose temple flows the water which gives us life, may we be in this world a conduit of your grace, a source of healing and life. ~David Maxson

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Kennewick Church of Christ

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336
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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:

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

September 13, 2020

Kennewick Church of Christ

How Strong Is Our Resolve?

Being a Christian in the United States has been convenient in some ways. It was an accepted world view. Not everyone was happy with it, but there was no overt animosity toward Christendom. That convenience has been waning. I have been of the opinion that the benign opinion of the masses toward Christianity wouldn't last. The church was birthed in persecution and hatred. The world's response to the gospel has always ebbed and flowed over time. It is only natural that we would see another shift. Paul wrote, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths" (2 Tim. 4:3-4). I didn't see it coming so soon and quickly. The ire and animosity toward any conservative values is palpable now. Are we ready?

This is not a doom's day message. This is a reality check. The danger of service to God was a daily reality for the early church and other brothers and sisters through time. Even now congregations are under attack in other countries like Nigeria by radical Islamists. This is from Sylvester Imogo, a brother in Nigeria: "But right now Muslim militia and terrorists have circulated virtually everywhere in the North and South [Nigeria]. Life for most people is unsafe. Ordinary trips to the market, farms, and other places of economic activities are now dangerous. And this is worsening the state of poverty and suffering. We are living every day at a time and looking forward to the day that God in His Providence would intervene."

What are we doing to prepare ourselves for the future of the church in the U.S.? "For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin" (Heb. 12:3-4). Christ is our supreme example in all things. He didn't promise a life free of suffering. He promised an eternal rest after this life. He needed to look forward to the reward, "who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross" (Heb 12:3). We need to strengthen our faith in the small choices, so that when the big things come along, we are already resolved to see this life as a Christian through to the end.

In comparison with eternity, the important things we need to focus on right now are not masks, not political affiliation, and not social injustice. Those are all things that would divide the church if we are not careful. The important things right now are these: Am I resolved to follow Christ no matter the cost? Am I resolved to help those around me? Am I resolved to maintain unity and the bond of peace in the church? ~Josh Blackmer

For You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth. (Psalm 71:5)

Keep These Dates in Mind	September Birthdays and Anniversaries	
There will be a congregational meeting at 5:00p before the evening service. There is not a specific topic that will be discussed. Please bring your concerns or issues so they can be discussed or come and here what is on peoples' minds..	Craig & Debra Bolt 9/1 Janette Petty 9/13 Jack Danley 9/18 Lonna Rau 9/29	

Please come and join us in our worship to God. Sunday mornings we are studying in Joshua.

Please be respectful of those who need to wear masks and practice social distancing because of health issues in their family.

Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes Sunday a - O.T. Sunday p -Colossians Wed p -Thessalonians	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Cancelled until further notice
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Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Marilyn Davis, Sandy Gray, Bill & Fran Henniger, Linda Laferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Shannon Mendoza,, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce

Bill Henniger has chosen to discontinue any further intervention for his kidney issues and is now in home care hospice. Please keep Fran and the rest of the family in your prayers during this trying time.

Wanda and Jack Danley's son-in-law and wife as he recovers from multiple bone fractures, a punctured lung and a shattered hip .He came home from the hospital this week, but has a long road ahead of him

The Hubbard Family – Michael's father was hit by a car and killed as he was walking along side the road.

Bill and Linda Laferty's daughter-in-law is home but is restricted from putting any weight on her leg for 12 weeks.



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)

The Valley of Dry Bones

"The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, indeed they were very dry. And He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' So I answered, 'O Lord God, You know' " (Ezekiel 37:1-3).

Have you ever felt there was no hope? The prophet Ezekiel had heard the news of the destruction of Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians (Ezekiel 33:21). Hearing this terrible news must have created feelings of hopelessness for his beloved nation. What hope was there for Israel's future?

As the book of Ezekiel closes, God shows His people there was great hope for their future. God had to bring His terrible judgment upon Israel and the other nations so that He might be just and His name might be glorified. God states, "I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them. So, the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward" (Ezekiel 39:21-22). The Gentile nations would know that God had executed His judgment upon Israel because of her sins against Him: "The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them" (Ezekiel 39:23-24).

Although bearing His judgment, God gave bright hope to His people: "Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name-- after they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, when they dwelt safely in their own land and no one made them afraid. When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, then they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer. And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord God" (Ezekiel 39:25-29).

As the opening verses above indicate, God illustrates His great hope for Israel's future by showing Ezekiel the valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37:1-3). God told Ezekiel how these dry bones reflected Israel's current feelings of hopeless: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' " (Ezekiel 37:11). However, God gave His people great hope as He told them of His plans to bring them back from captivity: "Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it," says the Lord' " (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

No matter how great my failures or how bleak I may feel about my hope, if I trust in God, He can still work amazing things in my life. He gives hope to the hopeless. He brings dry bones back to life.

~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ