

“What Kind of Book Will We Be?”

While writing books is a lofty profession for any writer, we can all “be” a book to someone. The question is, “What kind of book will we be?”

The inspired penman Paul wrote to the brethren at Corinth and told them:

“Clearly you are an epistle of Christ ... written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart” (2 3:3; Corinthians cf. Psalm 37:31; Psalm 40:8).

As Christians, we may be the only Bible that folks will ever see or read.

The work that Christ is doing in us as His followers, can result in an influence far greater than any book we might write with pen and paper (1 Thessalonians 1; cf. Romans 1:8; Romans 16:19).

Through God’s Word, written “on their [our] hearts” (Jeremiah 31:33), the Lord is displaying His love and goodness for all to see.

As Christians, we may never write a best-selling book, but by daily living for God, we will become a best-selling book to someone!

Therefore, let us be an “open book” — an “epistle of Christ” for all to “read” (Ephesians 3:1-4; cf. 1 Corinthians 4:16 ASV; 1 Corinthians 11:1 ASV; Philippians 3:17 ASV; 2 Thessalonians 3:7,9 ASV).

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; ccbotts@hotmail.com

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; Vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

November 24, 2019

Kennewick Church of Christ



Hope For the Future

It is impossible for us to imagine the emotional rollercoaster endured by young Daniel and his three friends. They had lived all of their lives in one of the most spiritual times in the history of the Jews. In the six decades before they were born, king Manasseh and king Amon, had brought idols into Solomon’s glorious temple. Yet Daniel grew up knowing only of the temple worship which Josiah had restored. For the two decades before they were taken to Babylon, the worship of God had been restored—they knew nothing of idolatrous worship. If you marvel at Daniel’s faith, remember that the world in which he lived was a world where the Jews faithfully served God.

Three years after Josiah’s death, Daniel was taken by Nebuchadnezzar to serve him in Babylon. That “rollercoaster of faith” descended into a pagan world saturated with immorality. After Daniel and his friends arrived in Babylon, idol worship began to flourish once again because of the new kings, sons of Josiah. Nebuchadnezzar would soon make two more assaults against Israel and finally destroy the holy city. Jeremiah was in Jerusalem and watched as Jerusalem was filled with false prophets. They prophesied that Nebuchadnezzar would return the holy temple vessels taken from the temple and be defeated by the Jews. These prophets were courageously confronted by Jeremiah for twenty-three years (Jer. 25:3). The world in which Daniel had been reared no longer existed. Sin had returned to Judah and God had sent the sword, famine and pestilence to try to get the Jews to see His judgment and return to Him.

Jeremiah sent a letter to those Jews who had already been taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. It specifically told them they would be in Babylon for seventy years, but then the prophet told them of God’s promise. “I know the thoughts I have toward you...to give you a future and a hope” (Jer. 29:11). Two chapters later, God said, “There is hope in your future...that your children shall come back to their own border” (31:17).

How could there possibly be hope? The temple was destroyed, the city was leveled and the only physical connection Daniel could have with Jerusalem was to go to his window and pray in the direction of the ruins of the temple. How could there be hope when Nebuchadnezzar demanded all those in Babylon worship his golden idol. (Remember the fiery furnace?)

There was no physical evidence there would ever be a return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. How could there be hope when they were in a hopeless situation? The answer is simple. God promised them a future and God cannot lie. Are you on a “rollercoaster of faith”? Has your world collapsed around you? Have hope, for God cannot lie about your future! ~Dan Jenkins

And he said, The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth, for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name. (Acts 9:14-16)

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

Attendance 11/17 N/A

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 11/17 \$3016.00

Keep These Dates in Mind	November Birthdays and Anniversaries		
11/03 First Sunday Potluck 11/09 Men's breakfast and fellowship 11/10 Open Congregational Meeting 5p 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	<i>Pat Lindsay 11/1</i> <i>Sallie Winstead 11/7</i> <i>Mike & Cindy Manning 11/9</i>	<i>Lupe Mendoza 11/21</i> <i>Holly Preston 11/29</i> <i>Connie Stecker 11/30</i>	
	Bible Studies		
Today's Speaker Clarence Botts Tonight's Video: Has the Bible Been Corrupted (5 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

The Friday afternoon class held at the church building will be cancelled for November 29.

Kennewick will be hosting the fifth Sunday singing in December. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend and sing praises to God with fellow Christians in the area.

Keep **Lupe Mendoza** in your prayers as she is undergoing more tests and deciding what needs to be done concerning the new suspicious findings during her last tests.



“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord’, and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show them what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who build a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.

(Luke 6:46-49)

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)

Content Analysis

“Forewarned is forearmed,” so the saying goes. It always helps to understand as fully as possible the situation at hand. This search for information led the United States to develop several new methods of espionage during the Second World War. One of the simplest, and yet most effective, tools used for finding useful information was Content Analysis.

Not being able to trust Nazis propaganda produced for public consumption, American analysts instead looked at the frequency of topics arising in the German media. Content Analysis highlighted shifts of national mood and accurately let America to have a clear picture of life behind enemy lines.

This approach proved valuable in cutting through a facade and was useful during the Cold War in understanding the mind-set of the Soviet Union. The strength of Content Analysis rests in its simplicity and ease of application. Beyond espionage, the methods of Content Analysis have found wide acceptance and currently are used in various marketing, public relations, and political applications.

Content Analysis also reveals interesting trends within congregations. A simple exercise is to list all the church activities mentioned in a congregational bulletin. When times of worship and Bible study begin to be crowded out by things that are not worship or Bible study, a disturbing trend is uncovered. Also, listing the subjects covered in Sunday morning and in Wednesday evening classes, or the topics addressed from the pulpit can reveal shifts in emphasis that will dramatically change the church over time.

Perhaps the most sobering application of Content Analysis is in our own lives. Listen to the topics discussed at a typical church fellowship. Do Christians talk about the truths of Scripture, or do the topics we discuss reflect a more secular outlook? Does the content of our communication differ much from our friends and neighbors who are not Christian? As Jesus reminds us in Luke 6:45, “...out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” Watching ourselves and our congregations, let's try ever to be moving closer to the Lord, rather than farther away. ~Gregory Alan Tidwell

Rest From Their Labors...

God's Word is very plain in its declaration that men ought to work. Whether we consider the examples of Jesus—a carpenter (Mark 6:3), Paul—a tentmaker (Acts 18:3), or Peter—a fisherman (Matthew 4:18), it is clear that work should be a part of our lives. Making this point even stronger, Paul wrote: “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat” (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

It is also interesting to note that the Bible offers advice about how we do our work. Solomon wrote: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). And Paul wrote: “Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men” (Colossians 3:22, 23). But with all of that being said, Christians have the privilege of looking forward to a time that is free from work. This time is not merely the retirement that so many long for—it is eternal rest which results from being faithful to Jesus. Describing this John wrote: “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them’” (Revelation 14:13). While the labor of the Christian on earth never ceases, the eternal rest which awaits will be worth it all. There is a rest waiting for those who faithfully serve God. It is found in heaven. ~Chad Ramsey