

### Destroying the Shroud

A brutal car wreck devastated Mary Ann Franco. Though she survived, the injuries left her completely blind. "All I could see was blackness," Franco explained. Twenty-one years later, she injured her back in a fall. After waking from surgery (which had nothing to do with her eyes), miraculously, her sight had returned! For the first time in more than two decades, Franco saw her daughter's face. The neurosurgeon insisted there was no scientific explanation for her restored vision. The darkness that seemed so final gave way to beauty and light.

The Scriptures, as well as our experience, tell us that a shroud of ignorance and evil covers the world, blinding all of us to God's love (Isaiah 25:7). Selfishness and greed, our self-sufficiency, our lust for power or image—all these compulsions obscure our vision, making us unable to clearly see the God who "in perfect faithfulness [has] done wonderful things" (v. 1).

One translation calls this blinding shroud a "cloud of gloom" (nlt). Left to ourselves, we experience only darkness, confusion, and despair. We often feel trapped—groping and stumbling, unable to see our way forward. Thankfully, Isaiah promises that God will ultimately "destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples" (v. 7).

God will not leave us hopeless. His radiant love removes whatever blinds us, surprising us with a beautiful vision of a good life and abundant grace. ~Winn CollierThe

### Kennewick Church of Christ

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

Website: [www.Kennewickcofc.com](http://www.Kennewickcofc.com)

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: [kencoc@gmail.com](mailto:kencoc@gmail.com)

### Meeting times:

Sunday:

Wednesday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

### Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; [ccbotts@hotmail.com](mailto:ccbotts@hotmail.com)

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; [vern.engelke@gmail.com](mailto:vern.engelke@gmail.com)

### Minister:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

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

Attendance 06/09 NA

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 06/09 NA

June 16, 2019

## Kennewick Church of Christ



### Teenage Suicide

The Gadsden Times of Sunday, January 26, 1975 contained an article, "SUICIDES; Number of Teenager Incidents Estimated At 30 A Day." In the article, Dr. Darold Treffert, director of the Winnebago Mental Health Institute at Oshkosh, Wis., states that the reason teenage suicides have increased so rapidly is due to "The American Fairy Tale." Dr. Treffert says the "fairy tale" has five themes: (1) that more possessions means more happiness, (2) that a person who does or produces more is more important, (3) that everyone must belong and identify with some larger group, (4) that perfect mental health means no problems, and (5) that a person is abnormal unless he is constantly happy. The article tells of one girl, age 15, who had received straight A's in school. When she received a B, she said, "If I fail in what I do, I fail in what I am." That was part of Amy's suicide message! When will parents AND teenagers learn God's Rules For Happiness? Jesus said in Luke 12:15, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisted not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.". The second fairy tale puts more emphasis upon the product or production than upon the person. This is crass materialism. Jesus put the worth upon the soul, not things! Cf. Matt. 5:25-34; Matt. 16:26. The third fairy tale puts the emphasis upon what man thinks rather than what God thinks. Some folks have driven themselves into mental break-downs worrying about what people think. Herod beheaded John due to the oath he had made and "them which sat with him at meat." Mt.14:9. Paul warns that evil companions corrupt good morals, 1 Cor. 15:33. We need to keep the attitude of Peter,. "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29. The fourth fairy tale is answered by Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul wrote this letter while in prison! Yet, count the number of times he mentions the word joy or one of its derivatives. The summation of the entire life of Paul is found in Phil. 1:21, "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain." If one has Christ, he may be happy and content, even in a Roman prison! "Not that I speak in regard of want, for I have learned, in whatever state I am. Therewith to be content" Phil. 4: 11. A person does not have to be a product of his environment. The fifth fairy tale misunderstands and misapplies real happiness. If one learns the meaning of happiness as illustrated by Paul, he can be happy even though he goes through the turmoil of life lived by Paul. Cf. 2 Cor. 11:23-28. Taking one's life never solves anything. It only extends and enhances one's troubles! " ... from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." Acts 1:25. Judas committed suicide and went "to his own place..". Parents and teenagers alike need to learn to avoid extremes. Parents sometime either do not discipline, or provoke their children to wrath through unrestrained disciplinary actions. Cf. Provo 23:13,14; Eph. 6: 4. Sometimes parents are guilty of offering little or no religious training, but push, push, push their children unmercifully in the social arena. How relevant are the words of Jesus for this uptight, hypertension, materialistic bound age -"Come unto me., all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30. " ~Ray Hawk

<b>Keep These Dates in Mind</b>	<b>June Birthdays and Anniversaries</b>	
<b>06/02</b> First Sunday Potluck 06/08 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 06/09 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00 <b>07/07</b> First Sunday Potluck 07/13 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 07/14 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00	Leland Davis 6/1 Henry & Mary Beth Walker 6/2 Curtis & Nadine Mohr 6/5 Fran Henniger 6/7 Rick & Jennie Freitag 6/7 Craig Bolt 6/15 Maurice Bunker 6/15 Jack & Wanda Danley 6/15	Ken & Sallie Winstead 6/17 Tera Berry 6/18 Thelma Gritzan 6/19 Jennie Freitag 6/23 Shannon Mendoza 6/30

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.  
(Phil. 2:9-11)

<b>Bible Studies</b>		
<b>Adult Bible Classes</b> Sunday am.–O.T. Beginning in Gen 12 Wed pm – Shadows of the church from the O.T	<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, Shirley Childers, Kaleb McCrickard, Marji Lindholm, The Johnson family, Marilyn Davis, Randy Hargus, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington, Amanda McCrickard's parents, Karen McBurney's father, Leland And Marilyn's daughter, Don and Sherri Blackwell.

- Keep all those who are sick and traveling in your prayers.
- Keep our graduates in your prayers as they close out one chapter of their lives and begin a new and sometimes scary journey into the next phase of their lives.
- Be with our congregation and we look for a new minister to work with us Send someone who is committed to your work and will be committed to the work here in Kennewick

**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)

**Can a Child of God Be Lost**

Salvation is a gift of God's grace in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. That gift is procured through our faithful response to the call of the Gospel. Like many other promises of God, the promise of salvation is conditional – conditioned on our enduring faithfulness until either death calls us home or the Lord returns.

Scriptural support for the position that a Christian can so sin as to be lost is found in the following verses. "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law"(2 Tim 4:10)/ "Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Rev 2:5). "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (2 Peter 2:20-22).

In the Galatian passage, baptized believers had returned to the practice of the Law of Moses rather than the practice of the Law of Christ. Paul declared they had fallen from the very thing that could save them, grace.

In the Timothy passage, Paul declares that Demas is now in love with the world. If 1 John 2:15 is a valid commentary on Demas' love of the world, then Demas was in danger of being lost eternally because the love of the Father was not in him.

In the passage from Revelation 2:5, Jesus points out that the entire congregation in Ephesus had fallen, and that they must return, repent, and do the first works again. If not, Christ would remove their candlestick. In other words, He would cease to recognize them as a congregation of His Church. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter passage is one of the most vivid expressions of the possibility of apostasy to be found in Holy Writ. Notice that those whom the apostle addresses had escaped sin through Jesus Christ. However; they became entangled in worldliness after their deliverance by Christ. Peter is plain: it would have been better had they never known salvation than to have accepted it and then forsaken it. He compares it to a dog eating its own vomit and a pig returning to the mud. There is no indication that their initial conversion was lacking in sincerity. They had come seeking salvation, found it, and then rejected it. The logical conclusion is that those who persist in such behavior, even those who had once tasted the heavenly gift of salvation, can be lost.

There are some who respond to all this by saying that if it is possible for a child of God to be lost, then there is no way of being assured of salvation. Not true! The certainty if salvation comes from a careful examination of our lives against the word of God. For example, Paul tells us to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith (2 Cor. 13:1-5). Again, Paul says that we an remain blameless and above reproach in the sight of Jesus IF WE CONTINUE in the faith. Peter tells us to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10) by applying the qualities listed in verses 3-9 of 2 Peter 1.

In summary, salvation is a gift of God's grace in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. That gift is procured through our faithful response to the call of the Gospel. Those who hold true to the principles of Christianity, even though they may sin from time to time, will benefit from the never-ending flow of Christ's blood as a means by which those sins can be forgiven. However, those who are in the faith may, by abandoning the faith, return to the ways of the world. If they leave this life without having repented of going back into the world and then returning to the works of God, they will be lost. There is simply no other conclusion to be reached.

Like many other promises of God, the promise of salvation is conditional – conditioned on our enduring faithfulness until either death call us home or the Lord returns. "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13). Knowing this, the admonition of Revelation 2:10 surely becomes most urgent: "...be though faithful unto death." ~Robert M. Lambert, Excerpted