

### Confess by Word and by Deed

Hebrews 11 is that great chapter of faith, which highlights great Bible heroes of the Old Testament, who were (and are) great Bible heroes because of their great faith in God. In the midst of this great roll call is this wonderful declaration, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (11:13). Focus on that last part: they "confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." They obviously "knew" and "understood" that they were temporary residents of the earth. That's not a hard thing to realize. But this says that they "confessed" the fact that they were temporary residents. How? In two ways, no doubt. (1) In word, they must have talked of how "this world is not our home." (2) In action, they must have lived like "I'm just a passing through." So, the question is, do we? Do we—in word and action—confess that we are here on this earth only temporarily? You won't talk and live "like everybody else," if you do. – David Sproule

### 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](mailto:ccbotts@hotmail.com)  
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### Minister:

December 29, 2019

## Kennewick Church of Christ



### Put Away Foreign Gods

If you were the leader of a nation, what would you tell your people shortly before your death? The Israelite leader Joshua had such an opportunity, and is recorded for us in Joshua 24. Joshua brought the people to the city of Shechem and renewed their covenant with God by making them consciously choose whom they would serve. Joshua declared his personal resolution to serve God with his family and the people also responded the same way, saying "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods...." (vs. 16). Surely this answer was cause for great rejoicing! But, no doubt to the surprise of the people, Joshua replied, "You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God" (vs. 19). Why would Joshua discourage obedience to the Lord? He revealed his thoughts in vs. 23: "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you..." Apparently, the Israelites had never fully rid themselves of their idols throughout the long years of Moses' and Joshua's leadership! The Israelites outwardly declared their desire to do the right thing, yet they had not made necessary life corrections.

Do we assemble weekly with other Christians to renew our covenant with the Lord and yet secretly serve idols like the Israelites did? Are there character flaws that we have allowed to grow into an unmanageable mess - like harboring anger and bitterness towards a spouse, a friend, or a fellow Christian? Do we possess objects that have utterly consumed our lives, robbing us of valuable time and focused devotion to God - objects like our smartphone, tablet, TV, or laptop? Has the god of sexuality taken control of our lives in the form of pornography or illicit relationships? Do our conversations, thinking, and Internet browsing revolve around the drive to spend money to accumulate new possessions that we don't actually need? Or do we desire to save money to such a degree that it becomes an obsessive force in our lives?

There are many ways to be idolatrous and wrapped up in this temporary world. Can we honestly sing the song, "The Lily of the Valley," and declare - "I have all for him forsaken, and all my idols torn from my heart and now He keeps me by His power"? Passionate commitments to serve the Lord are good and encouraging, as long as they are backed up by godly actions. Joshua was not discouraging the people from obeying God; he was declaring their dual allegiance impossible. As Jesus said in Matthew 6.24 - "No one can serve two masters." Fortunately for the Israelites, their dramatic, scene with Joshua had a good conclusion: Judges 2.7-10 tells us that the generation of Israelites who were confronted at Shechem decided to serve the Lord. Will we follow their example? ~ Nathan Combs

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

Attendance 12/22 59

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 12/22 \$2445.00

You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)

<b>Keep These Dates in Mind</b>	<b>January Birthdays and Anniversaries</b>	
01/11 fellowship and meeting with Bill Gregory 01/12 Potluck 01/19 Open Congregational Meeting 5p 02/02 First Sunday Potluck 02/08 Men's fellowship and breakfast 02/16 Open Congregational Meeting 5p	Hannah Minor 1/5 Linda Lafferty 1/8 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 Hannah Mendoza 1/29

<b>Bible Studies</b>		
<b>Adult Bible Classes</b> Sunday am.–Exodus Wed pm – Fruits of the Spirit/Works of the Flesh	<b>Youth Classes</b> Classroom Wing <b>Teen Class -</b> Teen Room	<b>Ladies Class</b> Th. 10-11:30am

**Today's Speaker**  
**Danny Mendoza**

**Issues (ongoing):** Karen McBurney, Shirley Childers, Marji Lindholm, Marilyn Davis, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington, Helen Pierce

**Lupe Mendoza** as she continues to heal from the biopsy and as she and the family deal with the results.

**Pansy Caywood** as she continues to heal.

**Bill Gregory** will be coming to meet the congregation and preach for us on Jan. 11, 12 as he considers working with us as minister and as we consider him. Please plan to attend the get together on Saturday at 2:00p and come to hear him speak on Sunday. He will be delivering the morning and evening lesson.

We are hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing today at 3:00p at the building. Please do your best to attend and enjoy the time we spend praising God with our voices and the fellowship and goodies afterwards..



**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)

**The Penitent Prayer**

Two men went to the temple to pray. The Pharisee prayed to himself, "I thank God, that I'm not like all these bad people. I do great things for you, God. You are lucky to have me. I'm glad we had this talk." The tax collector, not daring to look up said, "Have mercy on me, the sinner!" Luke records this parable of Jesus concerning people who trusted in themselves and viewed others with contempt (Luke 18:9-14). We can learn a lot from a penitent prayer. One such prayer is highlighted in Psalm 51. This psalm, possibly written after David had been rebuked by Nathan for his sin with Bathsheba, holds four things we should consider in our prayers.

First, there was an appeal to God's grace. "Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions" (Psa. 51:1). We must understand that the only way that the conscience can be cleansed is by an obedient surrender to the grace of God.

Second, he acknowledged his sins. "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight" (Psa. 51:3-4a). "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves. If we confess our sins He is faithful and righteous" (1 John 1:8-10). Third, he asked for a cleansing. "Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psa. 51:7). The Pharisee made no such request. It was as if God was indebted to him. Here, the debtor is humbled and cries out to be clean. "If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Finally, the psalmist gave an affirmation of renewed service. "Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You. . . Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness" (Psa. 51:13-14). "Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first" (Rev. 2:5). As Christ said this to the churches in Asia, we also need to return to the fruitful works that are pleasing to God.

When Jesus finished His parable of the two men praying, He said, "for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:14). We must humble ourselves in prayer and acknowledge our sins before Him. If we can do that the words of Psalm 32 can be our words. "How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit" (Psa. 32:1-2)!

~Josh Blackmer

**Hypothetical Situations or Random Stories Are Not Truth**

Sometimes when you're talking to someone about a Biblical subject, they may bring up some hypothetical situation or tell some random (made-up) story that they think illustrates their particular thinking on that Bible subject. For example, someone may try to illustrate (with a story) how requiring conditions to be met does not then make something a gift or asking about a random situation where someone died right before being baptized or using a horrible divorce episode to justify a remarriage. What can you do (or should you do)? If you are in such a Bible discussion and someone brings up a "story" or a "situation," THE KEY for you is to stick IN and WITH the Scripture. Stories and situations (true ones or hypothetical ones) are not the standard that determines truth (ever). The Bible is! God's Word (i.e., His truth) does not change to fit a situation! Just keep going back to the Bible! "The Bible says..." "The Bible says..." Truth is truth regardless of who agrees with it or accepts it! Do not compromise truth because of a compelling story! – David Sproule