

### Do Whatever It Takes to Draw Me Closer to You

This might be the most difficult prayer a person can pray. When we ask God this, we should be prepared to have our idols smashed and our comfort zones pulled right out from under us. It's a full acknowledgment of what Paul realized in talking about his thorn in the flesh in 2 Corinthians 12 – whatever weakness, persecution or difficulty draws me closer to Christ is a good thing.

No matter how true we know it is, that's a hard statement to accept. However, if we truly want to walk closely to God, and we're willing to lose whatever it may cost us to do so, this request will be a regular feature of our prayers. Yes, we'll probably lose some of our comforts in the meantime, but we'll gain a closeness with God that nothing in the world can replace.

So much about how we talk about God is based on our personal endeavors. So much of the help and closeness He promised us, though, is related to our efforts to live for Him. If we truly want to know God and see His hand in our lives, the best way to do so is to submit and let Him start calling the shots (i.e., directing our lives). ~Jack Wilkie

### Kennewick Church of Christ

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336  
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Website: [www.Kennewickcofc.com](http://www.Kennewickcofc.com)

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: [kenncoc@gmail.com](mailto: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; [cbotts@hotmail.com](mailto:cbotts@hotmail.com)  
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; [Vern.engelke@gmail.com](mailto:Vern.engelke@gmail.com)

### Minister:

Bill Gregory (360)710-0449  
[billgreg67@gmail.com](mailto: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

Attendance 09/13 : 29

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution 09/13 \$2568.25

September 20, 2020

### Kennewick Church of Christ

### A Christian's Reaction to Stressful Times

The situation in Jerusalem was one of immense danger. The northern kingdom of Israel was being overrun by the Assyrians, and in the southern kingdom the holy city of Jerusalem was being threatened by the same army that had invaded the north. Isaiah was in that city, and his writings allow us to sense what was happening. To study this event gives tremendous insight into how individuals react to stressful times.

Stressful times should create humble hearts before God. Isaiah said, "And in that day the Lord God of hosts called for weeping and for mourning, for baldness and for girding with sackcloth" (Isa. 22:12). Had Judah looked around them they would have seen how dire the circumstances were. The city was not only being threatened by Assyrians but the armies of Kir (Syria) and Elam (Persia) were also part of the attacking forces (Isa. 22:6). The valleys around the holy city were filled with chariots of the enemy, and there were breaches (gaps) in the walls (Isa. 22:7-9). It was a time when the Jews should have been on their knees, clothed in the sackcloth of repentance. *Such simply was not happening!*

Stressful times are times when we foolishly seek comfort in material things. God had called for repentance, "But instead, joy and gladness, slaying oxen and killing sheep, eating meat and drinking wine: 'Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die'" (Isa. 22:13)! How remarkable it is that we ignore the God of all comfort when we really need comfort. This is the avenue of escape those with addictions seek, but the seeking of comfort in material things is also the route taken by many. When adversity comes our way we no longer spend time with His word. We become sporadic in church attendance. We push the spiritual out of our lives in so many ways. The "let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die" philosophy is such a fatalistic view of life. It may be the only source the ungodly have, but Christians have an amazing source of spiritual comfort and hope.

Stressful times either bring us closer to God or distance us from Him. How closely we live to God is determined by us. James said, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8). When we humble ourselves before Him, He always lifts us up (James 4:10). The adversity in the days of Isaiah became Satan's tool to destroy spirituality in Jerusalem, when it could have been the instrument used by God to create greater spirituality. Israel decided which it would be.

So the next time you are burdened, just remember that *you* determine if that situation is a blessing or a curse! ~Dan Jenkins

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

<b>Keep These Dates in Mind</b>	<b>September Birthdays and Anniversaries</b>	
Since we have entered into this time of uncertainty with those in the government asking us to keep our assemblies to a minimum and to use caution and discretion as we meet, any activities that may be planned will be announced in a timely fashion a week before they are planned to happen and will be put out on the call multiplier.	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**

<b>Adult Bible Classes</b> Sunday a - O.T. Sunday p -Colossians Wed p -Thessalonians	<b>Youth Classes</b> Classroom Wing <b>Teen Class -</b> Teen Room	<b>Ladies Class</b> 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 health issues and continues to decline in hospice. Please keep Fran and the rest of the family in your prayers during this trying time.

**Fred Fleming**, Fran Henniger's brother is home with in-home hospice and is doing okay.

**Wanda and Jack Danley's son-in-law and wife** as he recovers from his accident and as his father has been placed in hospice for his final days of dealing with lung cancer.

**The Hubbard Family** – Michael's father was hit by a car and killed as he was walking along side the road, and they have also been dealing with some illness in their oldest son's family.

**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)

**They Break Off All Restraint**

"Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: 'There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed'" (Hosea 4:1-2).

How important is the daily study of God's Word to my life? What benefit is there of having a thorough understanding of God's laws? How does a lack of knowledge of God's Word affect me?

These are questions that we can get answered as we look at the ministry of the prophet Hosea to God's people. Hosea prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel during a time of economic prosperity for God's people, but a time of spiritual decay and corruption. In fact, things in the northern kingdom of Israel were so bad that God warns the southern kingdom of Judah not to have anything to do with their northern brethren: "Though you, Israel, play the harlot, let not Judah offend..." (Hosea 4:15). Furthermore, God adds, "Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone" (Hosea 4:17). How had the people of God turned into such a degenerate people in rebellion against God?

During His ministry Jesus had warned, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin" (John 8:34). Unfortunately, God's people of Hosea's day are an example of how people are enslaved in sin. Through Hosea, God said, "Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart. My people ask counsel from their wooden idols, and their staff informs them. For the spirit of harlotry has caused them to stray, and they have played the harlot against their God" (Hosea 4:11-12). How had a people who had gained liberty from the Egyptians becoming enslaved again, this time to sin?

As the opening verses above indicate, of His people God said, "They break off all restraint" (Hosea 4:2). What does this mean? The law of God points out what is sin. The apostle Paul wrote, "...I would not have known sin except through the law..." (Romans 7:7). Sin is a violation of the boundaries which God has set up for our lives. John wrote, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). God's people were not walking within the boundaries God had set up for them to live within as contained in His Word. Instead, everyone felt there were no boundaries in which they had to live. They were not only hurting God by violating His boundaries for them, but they also were not respecting boundaries in each other's lives as they stole from one another, committed adultery with one another, and even killed one another (Hosea 4:2).

They had forgotten God's law. There was no knowledge of God in the land (Hosea 4:1). They had become ignorant of the boundaries God had set up for them to live within, as contained in His Word. As God condemned the priest for failing to instruct God's people, He said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children" (Hosea 4:6).

It is essential for me to understand the boundaries in which God has set up for me to live within as contained in His Word. Striving to live within these boundaries does not mean I am trying to earn my way to Heaven, but simply that I know that God knows what is best for me and in love gives me His guidance so that I will not hurt myself or others. Today, I rejoice that God has given me these boundaries and I will diligently study His Word and live according to God's instructions found therein!

"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free'" (John 8:31-32)

~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ