

Complacency

By the time Israel arrived in Gilead, the people had been through a lot. They had experienced forty years of hunger and thirst, attacks from foreign armies, fiery serpents, and miles and miles of hard travel.

Gilead was a fertile land on the east side of the Jordan river, adjacent to the land of promise. They were poised to go in and take the land. After 40 years of waiting, it was time for them to live in the land flowing with milk and honey, to enjoy the fruit of vineyards they didn't plant, drink from wells they didn't dig, and live in houses and cities they hadn't built. It was all sitting there waiting for them.

To Moses' surprise, however, two tribes didn't want to go. Reuben and Gad were happy right where they were. They were tired of fighting. They were ready to settle down and establish their homes and live the easy life. "Do not take us across the Jordan," they said to Moses.

You can only imagine how this frustrated Moses (who wanted more than anything to go into the Promised Land but was forbidden). He replied, "Shall your brothers go to the war while you sit here?"

Does this describe you and me? Are we content to dwell in Gilead? Are we tired of fighting against sin? Have we decided that our lives are good enough here in the fertile fields God has provided for us? Are we unwilling to go and help our brothers fight in their struggles? Are we going to merely occupy a pew and keep our name on some church role?

Maybe Moses is speaking to you as well: "Shall your brothers go to the war while you sit here?"

~ David Maxson

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:

Bill Gregory

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

Attendance 02/23 66

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution 02/23 N/A

March. 01, 2020

Kennewick Church of Christ

Just Make it Through the Wilderness

It would be an understatement to say that the Bible was beautifully written. A more accurate statement is that godly men were moved by inspiration to pen the very words that God would have them to write (**2 Pet. 1:20-21**). Those words contain a very sober and challenging warning with relation to our time on this earth.

"So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience" (**Heb. 4:9-11**). The writer of Hebrews uses the example of the Israelite nation declining to conquer Canaan because they thought it would be too hard for them. So, the writer makes reference to their, "example of disobedience." In 1 Corinthians chapter 10, Paul broadens the analogy to encompass the entire time of the wilderness wandering by the Israelites as an example of how not to follow God. "Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (**1 Cor. 10:11**).

So, the challenge to us is to just make it through the wilderness. Don't follow the example of those that failed because of disobedience, lack of faith in God, lack of courage and deficiency in moral character. If the people had been obedient and fully trusting in God, as Joshua and Caleb had been, the story would be quite different. They would have been in the wilderness for less than a year. They would have gone in and conquered the indigenous peoples. They would have established a kingdom with God as their king. They would have rested, and they would have been better examples to us today.

It is easy for us to assume that we would have done better. After all, they were able to hear God's voice on the mountain. They were also able to see the power of God in the plagues. They could see the presence of God in the form of a cloud or fire. The Holy Spirit anticipates that reaction in the reader and had Paul pen these words, "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall" (**1 Cor. 10:12**). How are you doing with the challenge laid before you?

The Bible clearly teaches that we are just pilgrims passing through (**Heb. 11:13; 1 Pet. 2:11**). Will your path be a direct one? Straight to the gates of rest that lay beyond this life (**Matt. 7:14**)? Or will you be denied entrance to the place of rest because of disbelief and lack of conviction? Let us rise to the challenge that is laid before us. Let us labor together and be diligent to enter into that rest that has been prepared for us. Do not be forever lost in the wilderness of sin. ~Josh Blackmer

- Change -

A simple word with a difficult meaning

Keep These Dates in Mind	February Birthdays and Anniversaries	
03/01 First Sunday Potluck 03/08 Open Congregational Meeting 5p 03/14 Men's fellowship and breakfast 03/29 Fifth Sunday Singing 04/05 First Sunday Potluck 04/08 Men's fellowship and breakfast 04/09 Open Congregational Meeting 5p	Sammie Engelke 3/7 Tom & Thelma Gritzen 3/14 Doris Pennington 3/15 Faye Henry 3/17	Pansy Caywood 3/20 Lucy Larsen 3/23 Bill Henniger 3/31

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him – a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Ecc. 4:9, 12)



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

Welcome **Bill and Fran Gregory**

All who have been struggling with the flu and all the other viruses that are making the rounds in the tri-city area this winter.

Don't forget to start collecting and setting aside items for the **Mountain States Children's Home**. The bi-annual collection will soon be upon us.

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (Matt. 6:25, 26)

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)

Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes Sunday am.–Exodus Wed pm – Acts 13-28 (Paul's Journeys)	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Th. 10-11:30am
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Things Change

After all the furor of the riot in Ephesus had calmed down and been put behind him, Paul is making serious preparations to return to the churches of Macedonia, Greece and Asia to collect the money for the churches in Judea.

[After collecting the money from the churches], Paul knows that he may not return to Greece, Macedonia or Asia again. His plans are to go to Judea, deliver the money and then travel to Rome on his way to Spain (Rom. 15:22-29). That means so many people he has taught, baptized and built up in the faith will never see him again. And, along the way his little group of Silas, Timothy and Luke has grown. As numbers grow in any group, relationships change. It is true in marriage, when children come into the picture. It is true in work when more employees are added. And, it happens in church work when new plans are made, and new members step up to work those plans.

While we might want the church to stay the same, it doesn't. And, that means relationships will change. It has happened each time I have moved from one pulpit to another. It has happened when I have done the funeral of a beloved elder or a loving, hard-working sister. If new members come in with new ideas, or if baptisms occur and new faces show up, things change. Relationships must change at those times. It is the natural course of church work. Some things change. But, with Paul and with us, some things need to remain unchanged.

Go back and read how many times Luke tells us that Paul exhorted the churches he visited in Greece, Macedonia and Asia. At Troas he keeps the church together past midnight exhorting them. He preached so long a young man fell into a deep sleep. [The young man died, but Paul raised him up.] Helping people in need was still a vital function of the body of Christ. That is why Paul is taking financial help to Jerusalem. That is why he stopped his sermon to help Eutychus. Knowing he might not ever return to these cities and their churches, he is going to take every opportunity to build up the body of Christ.

That is why he encourages us, "Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love . . . Therefore, encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing" (Eph. 4:15-16; 1 Thess. 5:11). Our task is not to criticize and tear down the church, but to build it up with encouragement, confidence and exhortation, just as Paul did.

Around us every day we find opportunities to help people in need. As Paul says, "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Gal. 6:10). We should be helping those in need within the body, and we should be of service to the larger community around us. What set Jesus apart should set us apart. "You know of Jesus of Nazareth. . . and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil" (Acts 10:38). Like Jesus, we should be doing good to all people, believers and non-believers alike. We should be helping them physically and spiritually, freeing them from Satan's power.

We may have different talents or abilities, but they are there to make the body of Christ whole (1 Cor. 12:27) and we need to keep the Lord's goals in mind. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20). Things may change, but our goals remain the same.

[Throughout the book of Acts], we have seen ministry shift, change and look different. From a purely Jewish approach to evangelism (go to the synagogue first) Paul has learned how to plant churches where there are no Jews (Philippi). Paul had planted churches himself, but in Corinth and in Ephesus he used co-workers. He sent them to the communities around the large metropolitan areas and they planted the churches.

Jews and Gentiles were saved just as people are saved today. That remains unchanged. They and we believe Jesus as the Christ. We repent of our sins and confessing our faith, we are baptized into Christ and added to His one body. While methods change, the message remains the same. A sinful world needs a grace-filled message of hope. It never changes.

~David Thurman, [Edited and abridged]