

Missed Opportunities

An opportunist is described as a person who takes advantage of any opportunity to achieve an end. Usually with little or no regard for moral principles. However, a Christian should never fall into that category. They should always be true, honest and loyal to the cause of Christ. Even so, we should always be on the lookout for ways to serve the Lord, share the gospel, and do good to others. When opportunities are missed they are lost forever and leave only memories filled with regret.

Harold L. Fickett, Jr., wrote about a wealthy business man, who being on his deathbed was filled with remorse. When his minister called, he opened his heart and shared the burden he was carrying. He said, "ten years ago he had been given the opportunity to teach a Sunday school class of 9-year old boys. Thinking he didn't have the time, he declined the offer. Now, however, deeply conscious that his life would soon be over, he confessed to the pastor that his most painful regret was that he had missed such a golden opportunity to serve the Lord by investing his life in the lives of those 9-year old boys. He estimated that at least 100 boys would have passed through that class.

He said, "My investments in stocks and bonds, and the pursuit of wealth will all be left behind. What a fool I have been."

Have you missed opportunities to serve God? No doubt, we all have but we can resolve in our hearts and minds that we will do better and seize those opportunities that come our way." ~ H. Hewgley

Kennewick Church of Christ

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509-783-4013

Website: www.kennewickcoc.com Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ
Church Email: kencoc@gmail.com

Meeting times:

Sunday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am
Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday:

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

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

Attendance 12/30: 68 | Budget \$2400.33 | Contribution 12/30 \$2135.00

December 30, 2018

Kennewick Church of Christ

Lost Opportunities

There are numerous Bible examples of people who failed to take advantage of the opportunities they were given. One such person was Lot's wife. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah had become contaminated with sin due to the widespread practice of homosexuality. God pronounced the sentence of destruction upon the practitioners of evil. However, Lot and his family were given the opportunity to escape. The angels of God spoke to Lot and his family, saying: "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed" (Gen. 19:17). As Lot and his family fled, Lot's wife made a fatal mistake. "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt" (Gen. 19:26). This woman lost her opportunity to live. She missed the opportunity of being with her family. She missed the opportunity of being pleasing unto God. Her longing for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah cost her life.

Another example of a lost opportunity is recorded in Matthew 19. A young man approached Jesus with a very important question. "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may inherit eternal life?" (Matt. 19:16). Jesus listed a number of commandments required by God. "The young man said unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me" (Matt. 19:20-21). It was at this point the young man failed to take advantage of the opportunity given to him, an opportunity to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions" (Matt. 19:22).

Each of these examples brings sadness and hurt to our hearts. A woman lost her life. A young man did not follow Jesus. Each person had opportunity staring him/her in the face, but lost the opportunity given to him. Some within the church are much like these Bible examples. They have the opportunity given to them to strengthen their home through Bible classes provided by the church, but they will not come. They have opportunities in worship to show God how much they love and appreciate His goodness toward them, but they do not attend. They have opportunities to show their love for their brethren within the visitation program, but they are not a part. They have opportunities to learn and grow in seminars and gospel meetings, but they refuse to be a part.

Within the kingdom of Christ, opportunities abound for every citizen. We exhort every member to grasp these opportunities with great passion. Not only will the church be benefited, but you will also advance as a child of God. This writer is reminded of Saul of Tarsus. When the opportunity arose for him to convert to Christ and become an apostle of Jesus, he seized it and never let go. ~ Victor M. Eskew (Edited)

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart.

(Psalm 119:1-2)

Keep These Dates in Mind	January Birthdays and Anniversaries		
01/06 First Sunday Potluck 01/12 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 01/13 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 01/16 Soup Night (Tentative) 02/03 First Sunday Potluck 02/09 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 02/10 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 02/20 Soup Night (Tentative)	Bill & Linda Lafferty 12/24 Hannah Minor 1/5 Linda Lafferty 1/8 Gayle Caldwell 1/12 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 Casey Berry 1/28 Hannah Mendoza 1/29 Nadine Mohr 1/19	
<i>I therefore a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.</i>	Bible Studies		
	Adult Bible Classes Sunday AM – Galatians Wednesday – Acts 1-12	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Will Resume again January 10 th



Issues (ongoing): Karen McBurney, Bob Childers, Shirley Childers, Kaleb McCrickard, Vern Mast, Sue Aldrich, Marji Lindholm, The Johnson family, Marilyn Davis, Randy Hargus, Eunice Petros, Shawna Stephens, Tami Pennington

Please keep **Helen Pierce** in your prayers as she is struggling this week with the loss of one of her family and with her health.

Keep **Tanner and Heather Sitton** in your prayers. She delivered their son and he died soon after due to his birth defects.

Keep all those who are returning to school and traveling in your prayers.

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)

Choose to Be a Winner

Personal experience and observation show that there are many losers and few winners, even among those who are frequent participants. Take for example raffles, sweepstakes, or even races and other athletic contests. The prizes go to only a few. There may be thousands of entrants, but there are very few winners, sometimes only one.

Like us, you likely receive an abundance of junk mail offering fabulous prizes in various forms of sweepstakes almost every day. We are encouraged to participate, often at little or no cost other than a postage stamp. Although it is claimed that there are winners, such seem to be very rare. The odds are discouraging. Why bother to enter?

Even in the case of races and athletic contests, where formal entry requirements are met and much effort is spent in preparatory practice, the prize goes to the few. In each case, we must decide whether or not to participate, to make the necessary preparations and meet the other required conditions.

There is a race in which we cannot lose and each person is encouraged to make a decision to enter it - a race in which all who complete the course are winners. The Christian life is frequently compared to a contest, a fight or a race, but there is a great difference. Unlike these other contests, in it, all are potential winners.

We face opportunities to make choices or decisions in many areas of life. Some are small and inconsequential whereas others are very important and have profound and far reaching consequences. These are decisions that no one else makes for us. There will be people and circumstances that encourage or discourage the right and beneficial decision, but in the final analysis, we must, personally, decide. If we make the wrong decision we can only blame ourselves. We, and likely others influenced by us, will pay the price in this life and the future life. In contrast, if we make the right decisions, we thank God for the benefits to ourselves and the many others who benefit. This is because God provides the blessings resulting from the right decisions. God is the prize-giver.

Decisions we make in regard to vocation, location, companionships and relationships contribute to us not being losers in respect to the eternal prize. Basic to all of this, of course, is the decision to accept God's gift of salvation in Christ by deciding to obey the terms of the "good news". In doing this, we enter the race, we confess our faith in the divinity of Christ, we acknowledge Him as Lord and we commit ourselves to serve Him. Having thus become a participant in this race, one must realize that faithfulness and fruitfulness are the expected results. This involves following a spiritual leader while living in a physical body in a material world and making appropriate decisions along the way, We are in the world but not of it. Jesus prayed for his followers saying, "they are still in the world . . . they are not of the world any more than I am not of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:11, 14, 15-17).

Loyalty to this Lord will mean decisions resulting in self-denial, hardship, sacrifice, service and growth into His likeness. We make those decisions because we love our Lord, but also, like Moses of old, because we look ahead to the "reward". "By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the other people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward" (Heb.11:24-26).

The decisions we face regarding resisting temptation, being steadfast in our labour for the Lord (I Cor.15:58), a proper and permanent marriage, responsible parenting and loving and caring relationships with others - all of these should result from our first choice, to enter the "narrow way". Jesus encouraged this decision. He said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate, and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it" (Mt.7:13,14).

. ~Eugene C. Perry