

Lessons from the Wilderness

The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year, after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, "Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel..." (Numbers 1:1-2)

Why is the book of Numbers in the Bible?

The book of Numbers explains why it took forty years for Israel to get to the Promised Land after they left Israel. God promised to Abraham that he would make of him a great nation (fulfilled in Exodus) and give them the land where he was a sojourner. But that doesn't happen in this book because the people demonstrated a lack of faith in God's promise to give them the land.

But God's promise will not fail. In spite of Israel's faithlessness, God remains faithful (and this theme runs throughout the Bible). Israel grumbles and complains throughout the book, but God still leads them to the Promised Land (although the first generation who came out of Egypt was condemned to die in the wilderness). Even when a pagan prophet is summoned to curse the people (Balaam), he ends up blessing them instead (Num 22-24)

It becomes tiresome to read of Israel's constant bickering, complaining, and outright disobedience against God. Though this book is not a pleasant read, it is critical that we learn the lesson God is trying to teach us through it. Their disobedience and God's punishment of his people is a lesson for us 1 Cor 10:1-13; Heb 3:7-13).

Yet even in this dark and depressing book a bright light shines through. God's patience and compassion are on display to give us confidence that in spite of our failings his faithful, covenant love for us is sure and steadfast (Neh 9:16-21; Psa 78:14-39; 106:24-33, 44-46).

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Website: www.Kennewickcofc.com

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: 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; ccbotts@hotmail.com
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; Vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister: (Beginning 03/01/2020)

Bill Gregory

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

Attendance 02/09 59

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 02/09 \$2733.00

Feb. 16, 2020

Kennewick Church of Christ

Would You Also Go Away?

Not many of us intend to go away from the Lord. Most just gradually drift away. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest haply we drift away from them. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation? Which having at the first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed unto us by them that heard" (Heb. 2:1-3). You don't have to cultivate weeds in the garden of your life. Neglect will cause sin to take over. We need to "grow up in all things unto him, who is the head, even Christ" (Eph. 4:15), and that takes diligent and constant effort. The apostle Paul warned Timothy, "Be diligent in these things, give thyself wholly to them; that thy progress may be manifest unto all. Take heed to thyself, and to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee" (1 Tim. 4:15-16). And, we are told, "Let us therefore give diligence to enter into that rest" (Heb. 4:11).

The attitude of Felix is too often with us today. For, when he heard the gospel, his reaction was, "When I have a convenient season" (Acts 24:25). We intend to study and learn. We intend to talk to our neighbors and friends about Jesus. We intend to become faithful to the work of the church, when it is convenient! But, finding a convenient time to serve the Lord will never happen, for that is not a matter of convenience, but of conviction. As Christians we are warned, "Today if ye shall hear his voice, Harden not your hearts" (Heb 3:15). And, "Already it is time for you to awake out of sleep for now is salvation nearer to us than when we first believed" (Rom. 13:11). B neglect and just putting things off, many "go away."

When the Lord asked the disciples, "Would ye also go away?" their reply was final. "Lord to whom shall we go? Thou has the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). That reply is still valid for us today! He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). If we "go away" from Jesus, we can go only to eternal despair in hell. "Let us therefore give diligence to enter into that rest, that no man fall after the same example of disobedience" (Heb. 4:11). Let us learn to "Be thou faithful unto death" and Jesus "will give thee the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). And "let us draw near with a true heart in fulness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and having our body washed with pure water let us hold fast the confession of our hope that it waver not; for he is faithful that promised and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works (Heb. 10:22-24). Each of us can encourage each other to remain faithful and active in the service of the Lord. And each of us can ensure our salvation by not "going away" from the Lord Jesus Christ. For if we "go away" from Jesus we must struggle with the problem of sin without a Savior. We must sorrow with no Comforter. "If we go away" from Jesus, we must face death with none to give life, or hope. ~ Clem Thurman

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the Glory of God. (Romans 15:4-7)

Keep These Dates in Mind	February Birthdays and Anniversaries	
02/02 First Sunday Potluck 02/08 Men's fellowship and breakfast 02/09 Open Congregational Meeting 5p 03/01 First Sunday Potluck 03/14 Men's fellowship and breakfast 03/15 Open Congregational Meeting 5p	Leland & Marilyn Davis 2/8 Linda Bills 2/14 Ron Stephens 2/14 Joe Botts 2/15 Wanda Danley 2/16	Al Lindsay 2/16 Danele & Kenneth Chapman 2/16 Rick Freitag 2/18 Jim Preston 2/22 Josh Mendoza 2/27

Today's Speaker
Morning Worship
Danny Mendoza

Evening Worship
Video

Why the Church of Christ is Different
Alan Highers

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

Lupe Mendoza will begin Chemo treatments this week and they will continue for three weeks. Keep her in your prayers as she begins this round of treatments and pray that it is successful.

Shannon Mendoza was diagnosed with fibromyalgia as well as having rheumatoid arthritis. She is in a great deal of pain and is having trouble sleeping.

Karen McBurney is having trouble with her legs again. Keep her in your prayers.

A flyer concerning the food and personal items collected by the Mountain States Children's Home will be on the back-bulletin board. It is the time of year that we begin to purchase and collect our gifts for the residents of the Children's Home.

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)

Be Ye Steadfast, Unmoveable, Always Abounding. . .

It has always amazed me that so many profess to read and study the Bible and yet believe that salvation is unconditional. Far too many people (including many brethren) have bought into the devil's doctrine of salvation by "faith and grace only."

One must have faith to become a child of God, and it is only by the grace of God that such is possible. Without faith and God's grace, one cannot successfully live the Christian life. God has always set forth conditions to which one must comply in order to a recipient of His grace. Even God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, is a case in point. The Scriptures reveal, "...though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience...he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:8-9).

The apostle Paul rebuked the Galatians brethren in saying, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another, but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:6-7). One can move away from God's grace after having Scripturally received it. This point is made absolutely clear when Paul tells the Roman brethren, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein" (Rom 6:1-2)? One should then not be surprised that Paul would plead with the Corinthian brethren, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). Let us learn several lessons from this passage of Scripture.

First, Paul is speaking only to members of the Lord's church (New Testament Christians). The Corinthians that Paul addresses are his beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. A non-Christian may be kind and do many good deeds but his labor is in vain as far as spiritual matters are concerned. Jesus's words still ring true today. "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5)! One who seeks to worship God but has not obeyed the Gospel worships in vain! If a person reacts by saying this is a harsh statement, he needs to carefully listen to our Lord. Christ says, "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of me" (Matt. 15:7-9).

No matter what a person does, he can never attain Heaven unless he obeys the Gospel, becomes a Christian, worships according to the Lord's will, and walks according to the rule of Christ. "And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God" (Gal. 6:16). One must be a member of the Lord's church in order to lay up treasures in Heaven (cf. Matt. 6:19-20).

Second, Christians are to be steadfast and unmoveable in sacred matters. The "hope of salvation" (1 Thess. 5:8) is rooted and grounded in the precious Gospel (Col. 1:5). There is only one legitimate "hope" (Eph. 4:4) and all people are "called" (2 Thess. 2:14) and "saved" (Rom. 1:16) by the Gospel. But one can drift and move away from the gospel – his only hope! Paul warns the Colossians brethren. "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached in every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister" (Col 1:23).

The God-given Gospel does not change or move. Neither God nor Christ changes (Mal. 3:6, Heb. 13:8). It is men who seek to change the Gospel to please themselves and others! The words that Christ spake are the words that will judge each of us in the Day of Judgment (John 12:48, 2 Cor 5:10).

A faithful child of God will absolutely refuse to move away from the Lord's commands. Thus, let us abound in the Lord's work and lay up for ourselves treasures in Heaven "for where (our) treasure is, there will be our heart also (Matt. 6:19-21). ~ Marvin L. Weir