

But You Are . . . God's Special Possession

Imagine a vast throne room. Seated on the throne is a great king. He's surrounded by all manner of attendants, each on their best behavior. Now imagine a box that sits at the king's feet. From time to time the king reaches down and runs his hands through the contents. And what's in the box? Jewels, gold, and gemstones particular to the king's tastes. This box holds the king's treasures, a collection that brings him great joy. Can you see that image in your mind's eye?

The Hebrew word for this treasure is *segulah*, and it means "special possession." That word is found in such Old Testament Scriptures as Exodus 19:5, Deuteronomy 7:6, and Psalm 135:4, where it refers to the nation of Israel. But that same word picture shows up in the New Testament by way of the pen of Peter the apostle. He's describing the "people of God," those who "have received mercy" (1 Peter 2:10), a collection now beyond the nation of Israel. In other words, he's talking about those who believe in Jesus, both Jew and gentile. And he writes "But you are . . . God's special possession" (v. 9).

Imagine that! The great and powerful King of heaven considers you among His special treasures. He has rescued you from the grip of sin and death. He claims you as His own. The King's voice says, "This one I love. This one is mine." ~John Blase

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:

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Minister:

December 01, 2019

Kennewick Church of Christ

Thank You Lord for Older Christians

Forgive me, for sometimes I do not think about how hard it is for you to come to worship. I take for granted things like putting on clothes and driving to the church building. I rarely think about how much pain you endure in getting in and out of a car or sitting on a hard church pew.

While you may fret about whether your hair is too thin or whether you are too slow, I want you to know what I see. I see love—love in a form that Jesus wants me to see it. Words cannot adequately describe your beautiful warm smile and the love you show for everyone in our church family. Your hugs are like being wrapped in a blanket of love—something I desperately need in the hustle and bustle world we live in today. I see a person who has weathered many years and truly knows the things that are important in life—a lesson that I'm still learning.

I suspect when you look in a mirror you see an old person—someone who feels the aches and pains of many years. But that's not what I see. I see someone who I long to see sitting in "your pew" every Sunday.

You see age-spots on wrinkled hands that sometimes tremble. I see the caring hands that reveal years of hard work, and gentle hands that have held many children, grandchildren, and maybe even great-grandchildren.

You see someone who can't hear well and whose voice sounds rougher with each passing year.

I see someone who sounds just like my grandparents—a sound that I treasure in my heart.

You see someone who shuffles down the aisle and is slow. I see someone who may need an arm for support and someone who is teaching me a good lesson on patience.

You see someone whose hair is thin and white. I see someone whose hair reveals years of wisdom.

You see someone who you think will not be missed if you are not there on Sunday. I see a pillar of our church family—someone who makes everything feel just right.

You see someone whose clothes may be out of style. I see someone who has amazing stories of what life used to be like.

You see someone who can't cook as well anymore. I see someone whose pies and cakes are legendary at fellowship meals—and maybe someone who is now giving me an opportunity to provide meals for them.

You see someone whose memory doesn't work as well. I see someone whose very presence edifies and encourages me.

You see someone whose has aches and pains, and feels old and tired. I see a Christian soldier who still puts on the whole armor of God and is showing me what living faithfully until death really means.

~Brad Harrub

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

Attendance 11/24 65

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 11/24 \$3259.00

Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day and turns to you seven times saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him. (John 17:3, 4)

Keep These Dates in Mind	December Birthdays and Anniversaries		
12/01 First Sunday Potluck 12/14 Men's breakfast and fellowship 12/15 Open Congregational Meeting 5p 12/29 Kennewick hosting the 5 th Sunday singing 01/05 First Sunday Potluck 01/11 Men's breakfast and fellowship 01/12 Open Congregational Meeting 5p	Mark Minor 12/4 Sandi Gray 12/14 Bill & Linda Lafferty 12/24	<i>Aging is an extraordinary process where you become the person you always should have been.</i>	
	Bible Studies		
Today's Speaker Al Lindsay Tonight's Video: Has the Bible Been Corrupted (6 Of 9) – Dave Miller	Adult Bible Classes Sunday am.–Exodus Wed pm – Fruits of the Spirit/Works of the Flesh	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Th. 10-11:30am

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

Janette Pettey's husband fell and hurt himself. Please keep the family in your prayers as he recovers.

Barbara Goldsmith could use calls and letters. Keep her in mind at this time of year that can be trying for many people.

Kennewick will be hosting the fifth Sunday singing December 28, 3:00pm



Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Rom 5:1-5)

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)

Petu 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)

For to Me, To Live Is Christ, and To Die is Gain

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better" (Philippians 1:21-23).

How do you feel about dying? How often do you think about your own death? Many of us avoid this subject like the plague. From the opening passage above, it is evident that the apostle Paul took some time to contemplate the consequences of his own death (Philippians 1:21-23).

It was certainly appropriate for Paul to consider his own death as he wrote his letter to the church at Philippi because he wrote this letter from a prison cell in Rome. As he wrote he did not know what the outcome of his sentence would be: Would he be sentenced to death or would he be set free?

While Paul did not know what his sentence would be, more importantly, Paul did know what his purpose was regarding the time he had left on this earth. His purpose was to live for Christ and to glorify Him. Paul writes, "For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death" (Philippians 1:19-20).

Paul knew either he would be delivered from prison to go on to serve Christ or he would be delivered from this earthly life to go on to his heavenly home to be with Christ. Furthermore, he says, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). In fact, Paul struggled with having his desire to leave this earthly life be greater, at times, than his desire to stay: "For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better" (Philippians 1:23).

How could Paul make such a statement? Did Paul have some kind of death wish or was he suicidal? No! He loved his brethren in the church and knew they needed him (Philippians 1:24-26). However, he loved God and wanted to be with Him too! Paul knew this earth was not his home, but that he was just passing through. Paul understood it was not his place to choose whether he would stay on this earth or go to his heavenly home (Philippians 1:22). Paul would not rob himself of the peace of God by worrying about such things. He determined that while he remained on earth his purpose was to live a Christ-centered life as he looked forward to going home to be with God.

Years ago, I met a preacher of the gospel named Garvin Smith. He had been told he had cancer and was going to die soon. He prepared himself for death and told myself and others he was looking forward to going home to be with God. However, his cancer went into remission. After learning this, he said he was actually disappointed to learn of this because he was looking forward to going home.

Would I have reacted this way? Is my desire for heaven so strong that to learn I am being given more days to spend on earth would be a disappointment to me? Brother's Smith's cancer eventually did come back and he got to go home to be with God, but his example, like Paul's, is a great example to me to remember that my "longing" needs to be for my heavenly home, not my earthly tent! Today, I will strive to live by Paul's words: "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain".

"For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 5:1). ~Susquehanna Church of Christ, Daily Devo