

Playing With Joy

One of our sons, Brian, is a high school basketball coach. One year, as his team was dribbling its way through the Washington State Basketball Tournament, well-meaning folks around town asked, "Are you going to win it all this year?" Both players and coaches felt the pressure, so Brian adopted a motto: "Play with joy!" I thought of the apostle Paul's last words to the elders of Ephesus: "That I may finish my race with joy" (Acts 20:24 nkjv). His aim was to complete the tasks Jesus had given him. I have made these words my motto and my prayer: "May I run and finish my race with joy." Or as Brian says, "May I play with joy!" And by the way, Brian's team did win the state championship that year.

We all have good reasons to get grouchy: discouraging news, everyday stresses, health problems. Nevertheless, God can give us a joy that transcends these conditions if we ask Him. We can have what Jesus called, "my joy" (John 15:11). Joy is a fruit of the Spirit of Jesus (Galatians 5:22). So we must remember each morning to ask Him to help us: "May I play with joy!" Author Richard Foster said, "To pray is to change. This is a great grace. How good of God to provide a path whereby our lives can be taken over by . . . joy." ~David H. Roper

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Website: www.Kennewickcofc.com

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Meeting times:

Sunday:

Wednesday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm 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:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

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

Attendance 06/23 83

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 06/23 \$2889.65

June 30, 2019

Kennewick Church of Christ

Preaching Rendered Useless

"To whom shall I speak and testify that they may hear? Behold, their ear is uncircumcised and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of Jehovah is become unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it" (Jer. 6: 10).

The above passage was uttered by the prophet Jeremiah just before Judah went into Babylonian captivity. It is a message of strange significance especially since God has chosen preaching as the vehicle through which the world is to hear His will for them.

We consider it strange for the following reasons:

1. Preaching is God's chosen method of awakening and conversion (Eph. 5:14; 1 Cor. 1:21).
2. Preaching is the appropriate and established agency by which the Holy Spirit works in conversion (Acts 2:40; 11:14).
3. There is a conscience in man upon which Divine messages act with startling force (2 Cor. 3:11-20).
4. The Word of God is itself quick and powerful (Heb. 4:12).
5. The manifold Divine promises guarantee the preacher against failure when speaking for God (Isa. 49:2; 40:8; cf Jer. 1:5, 10, 12).

Why would God utter such a message through His prophet? We all would agree that God knew the five points that we have considered in the above paragraph. Why then would He reveal such statements as those which are recorded in our text? The answer can only be as God told the prophet Isaiah in chapter six when He called them but the people would not listen (Isa. 6:8-13); cf Isa. 29:1). Jesus applied these passages of Isaiah's day to the Jewish nation whose impending doom was evident to Christ, but the minds of the Jewish leaders were blinded by their traditions and false doctrines.

Our preaching is rendered useless and powerless to save those who refuse to hear. We cannot any longer make excuses for ignorance (Acts 17:30). The people of today are ignorant of God's Word and love to have it so! The people of the world will take one so-called evidence which they feel disproves the existence of God and shout with the highest voice that there is no God! Some members of the church through their indifference and slothful attitude toward God's Word actually side and promote the same godless concept. Preachers preach to the world and for the most part it rejects the preaching. Preachers preach to the church and for the most part the church is filled with worldly minded people. It would alarm us, maybe, if we knew how many that were in the fellowship of the church who no longer believe in God much less in the precious church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Brethren, we will continue to preach and people will continue to reject God's Word, but it is not God's fault; it is not the preacher's fault. God's part will never fail and the preacher will not fall unless he perverts the Word. Let us speak the Word with boldness. The time is here when we must preach the pure message and let it fall even if it is for the most part falling on deaf ears. ~Winston Temple

Keep These Dates in Mind	July Birthdays and Anniversaries	
06/30 Fifth Sunday Singing 07/13 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 07/14 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00 07/20 VBS 07/21 Fellowship Potluck Teen Camp 08/04 First Sunday Potluck 08/10 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 08/11 Open Congregation Meeting 500p	Kael Botts 7/3 Bob & Shirley Childers 7/11 Mailey McCrickard 7/11 Kaleb McCrickard 7/12 Marilyn Davis 7/15 Joshua Hickman 7/15 Patrick & Kristy Hickman 7/19 Danny & Shannon Mendoza 7/22	Alec Minor 7/22 Jim & Holly Preston 7/22 Dorothy Bryan 7/27 Sarah Mendoza 7/28 Ila Stephens 7/28 Jeffra Slagle 7/29 Shaylin Smith 7/29
Bible Studies		

And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"



Adult Bible Classes	Youth Classes	Ladies Class
Sunday am.–O.T. Beginning in Gen 12 Wed pm – Shadows of the church from the O.T	Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Thursday 10:00a.m – 11:30a.m.

Issues (ongoing): Karen McBurney, Shirley Childers, Kaleb McCrickard, Marji Lindholm, The Johnson family, Marilyn Davis, Randy Hargus, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington, Amanda McCrickard's parents, Karen McBurney's father, Leland And Marilyn's daughter, Don and Sherri Blackwell.

- Today is the fifth Sunday singing. Check with Dustin to see where it is – I believe it is in LeGrande at 3:00p
- Garrett and Brittany English are visiting this weekend. Garrett will be bringing the message this morning. They are considering and he is being considered to work with this congregation as minister.
- Keep all those who are sick and traveling in your prayers.
- Especially keep Barb and Norm Goldsmith in you prayers. Also, Karen Burney's Father and brother.

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)

Liberalism

Liberalism's very existence is counting on, depending on, people not knowing the Bible. Liberalism thrives on biblical ignorance. Its proponents attempt to convince people they can't know the truth anyway; and they're very successful at it because so many love to have it so. Some of the elite of their number tout that we're not able to discuss the Bible with them because we're not on their academic level. Such pride! God rightly proclaims, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18). However, when people learn and know the truth (educated in the Scriptures), their knowledge of the Bible drives a "death knell" into liberalism's heart every single time.

Sadder still is that there are some who have Bible knowledge, but don't accept it. They ignore it. Woe to them that know better but don't do better (cf James 4:17). The God of heaven declared, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee..." (Hosea 4:6). God's holy and eternal Word forbids any alterations, whether adding to it or taking from it.

God has always warned His people to not stray from the "strait and narrow" (Matt. 7:14; Luke 13:24). We are always to walk in God's Path and follow His Way. This was made clear to Moses and the children of Israel. In Deuteronomy chapter five we read, "And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them....Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you; ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left" (Deut. 5:1,32). This same admonition is seen throughout the Scriptures. The people were warned time and time again, don't deviate from God's law. Don't depart from it to the left hand or to the right hand.

The tried and true way of God is to be maintained. We must not depart from it. It's ancient because it is God's order. It's the tradition God has given us to keep. Liberals hate biblical tradition. With them, tradition is automatically bad because in their view we have to always be changing and adapting. However, there are "traditions of men" and there are "traditions of God." The traditions of men are condemned in the Bible. Jesus said, "...Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the command of God, ye hold the tradition of men...And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:6-9;cf Matt. 15:8-9).

The traditions established by the Lord (through the apostles and other inspired me of the New Testament) are authorized; yea demanded to be kept and maintained. For example, the apostle Paul told the church at Thessalonica: "...Stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word or our epistle" (2 Thess.. 2:15). Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us" (2 Thess. 3:6). As Paul and Silas "...went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem" (Acts 16:4). Paul told Timothy, "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me..." (2 Tim.1:13).

The decrees and traditions of the New Testament are the words from which all humanity will be judged (John 12:48). How tragic that liberals and progressives hate the inspired word. They misuse it and twist it to suit their own agenda. David said his enemies were always twisting and distorting his words, yet in spite of it he said, "In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me" (Psalm 56:2-5). The same thing is done today by those who don't revere God's book. Peter pointed out that the "unlearned and unstable wrest" (wrench, twist, torture, pervert) the Scriptures unto their own destruction (2 Peter 3:16). That's what liberals do. ~Gerald M. Robinson