

## My Lord and My God

Jesus the Christ had many that commented about who He was. Most of them were false concepts of who He was. The question posed by Jesus, "What do you think about the Christ?" still has eternal consequences (Matt. 22:42). It is important for us to know for certain who He is. Only then can you decide what you will do with the information.

There are many false views of Jesus, then and now. His own countrymen said, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" (Mark 6:3). "King Herod heard of Him, for His name had become well known. And he said, 'John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him'" (Mark 6:16). When the disciples "saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out" (Mark 6:49). After the feeding of the multitude, they proceeded to "take Him by force and make Him a King" (John 6:15). There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, "He is a good man"; others were saying, "No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray" (John 7:12). "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'" (Matt. 11:19). "His own people... went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, 'He has lost His senses'" (Mark 3:21). Jesus "was asking His disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets'" (Matt. 16:13-14). The opinion a person has of Jesus reveals the person (John 1:1-4).

In contrast to many others, Thomas' acute sense of reality is revealed to us by his unique confession: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28)! Similar to Peter's, it was powerful, insightful and full of conviction. The Lord had given Thomas exactly what he asked for—a chance to see the risen Savior like the others. At his confession, the Lord's last beatitude was given, not to Thomas, but to us who name His name based upon infallible proof. "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed" (John 20:29). We must examine and hold onto what is good (1 Thess. 5:21)—examine the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11; John 20:31), thereby having a faith based on evidence so that we can cry out with conviction like Thomas (Heb. 11:1).

~Josh Blackmer

### 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](mailto:ccbotts@hotmail.com)

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#### Minister:

September 19, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST




### A Life Without Standards

Can you imagine what it would be like if we had no standards in the world today? Everywhere you look there is something that is standardized. According to Webster's Dictionary a standard applies to any definite rule, principle, or measure established by authority. Consider these examples and think of how chaotic things might be if there were no standards to go by.

Buying a pair of shoes. Suppose you went to the store and attempted to buy shoes and there were no standard sizes. The first thing you might do is to choose the style of shoe you want to wear. Then you must find shoes that fit, here lies the problem. There are no sizes marked on the shoes because there are no standard sizes. Not only that, but there were no standard categories for the shoes. Shoes for men, women, and kids would be all in the same place and because there are no sizes to divide the shoes, you would have to search through who knows how many pair to find the type shoe you wanted. Oh, and by the way, shoes don't come in pairs (that's a standard too). So now you are searching through a huge inventory of unmatched, un-sized shoes. Who knows how long it would take to find a matching pair, then would they be the same size? And would that size fit your foot?

What about fishing? All fishermen know that the law requires a standard length for certain fish before they can be kept. But what if there was no standard to measure the fish by? Many of you fishermen reading this right now are thinking "Boy that would be great!" But hang on for a minute. Because there is no standard, there is no guidance for the game warden to make a judgment about your catch. Therefore if he thought that your fish was too small or that you had too many fish in your live well, how could you argue if he had the authority to make his own decisions based upon his opinion and not the standard of the law? Besides, how could you describe the big one that got away if you could describe it using inches or pounds?

Standards are important, especially in matters of religion. In order to be pleasing to God we must follow His standard, the Holy Bible. Inspired by Him (through the Spirit) it contains the ruler, the yardstick, the scale by which all of mankind will be judged. Jesus said, "the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." (John 12:48). So when it comes to determining what is right and wrong, how to become a Christian, how to properly worship God, there is only one standard. It is not a standard written by men, determined by some council or board but a divine guide for all of our life, service and worship to the Heavenly Father. If we are to have real unity, if all believers are to worship and serve God together as Jesus desired us to do (John 17), then we must let go of our traditions, our opinions and let God's Word be our guide in all truth, God's Word is truth (John 17:17). Without a standard chaos reigns, if you doubt that then take a look at the state of religion today. Please include in your daily prayers that we can all begin to follow God's standard in unity, in spirit, in love and in Jesus Christ! ~Jay Launius

<b>Keep These Dates in Mind</b>	<b>September Birthdays and Anniversaries</b>	
Sept 19 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship	Craig & Debbie Bolt 9/1 Jack Danley 9/18	 <p><b>Once I come to worship I feel so good, that I forget all the things I thought about saying behind other people's backs</b></p> <p><small>Komeedy Korner</small></p>

**Those with ongoing health Issues:**

Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Jim Preston

**Linda and Bill Lafferty** are still recovering as far as I know.  
**Al and Pat Lindsay** should be with us today. Welcome back.

We will have a guest speaker for class and for both services on Sunday. This young man is being considered to help us in this area as we work to spread the word of God in this place. Please make him feel welcome.

Please continue to pray for all those who are struggling with Covid, the flu and other health issues. I haven't heard any news of new instances of illness and are hopeful that those who are struggling with health issues will soon be back among us. When one in the body is suffering, we all suffer.

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**Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)**

**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** - If you are in need of food assistance, please contact one of the men of the congregation and they will be able to help you with this need.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

**Thankful for My Ministry**

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 1:12-14).

What is your particular ministry? Have you made the time and effort to discover the particular way you may minister to others in the church and in the world (cf. Ephesians 4:11-16)? Some may be preachers, Bible class teachers, building maintainers, encouragers, gospel sharers, elders or deacons. There are a host of possible ministries in which we may be involved.

If you have discovered your ministry, how do you feel about it? If you have been involved in ministry for a long time it is possible that you are growing weary in carrying it out. The apostle Paul warns, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:10). For example, if you have been teaching a Bible class for years, it is possible that you become weary of getting ready every Sunday morning to prepare to teach it.

How do we prevent growing weary in our ministry? In the opening passage above, Paul gives us a key of how to cure this: We can keep a proper perspective on continuing to serve in our particular ministry by remembering to be thankful for our ministry. As a Christians, we are told, "In everything give thanks..." (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Our practicing thankfulness helps keep a proper perspective.

Why should we be thankful for our ministry? First, remember from where you came. Paul writes, "although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man..." (1 Timothy 1:13). As Christians, each of us came from a background where we were lost in sin (Romans 3:23; 6:23). God has taken us from that lost position, saved us from our sins through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:28), and elevated us to being allowed to serve in our particular ministry!

Furthermore, we should be thankful for our ministry because of what God has given to us. First, he has shown us His mercy by not punishing us for our sins. Paul adds, "...but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief" (1 Timothy 1:13). Second, God has shown each of us and exceedingly abundant measure of His grace. Paul writes, "And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 1:14).

Recalling everything that God has done for us, helps us to be thankful for the privilege of being able to serve God in our particular ministry. Paul concludes by saying, "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life" (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

I realize there is a temptation for me to grow weary in carrying out my particular ministry for the Lord. I can get tired of carrying it out and can become discouraged when I feel unappreciated. However, I can combat these negative feelings by practicing the attitude of gratitude.

~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ