

This Breaks My Heart

...let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. 1 Peter 3:4

You want to know what breaks my heart?

To see children dressed in provocative clothing. I'm not talking about just teens or even preteens. I'm talking about CHILDREN!

The sexualization of little girls is disgusting. From commercials, to toy dolls, to video games, to Saturday morning cartoons, it seems young children are being exploited everywhere. And then with the proliferation of child pornography... It makes me want to cry!

What disturbs me even more is that many of us are willing participants in this disgusting movement. What are we thinking buying such clothes for our daughters?

We're sending the wrong message when we dress our kids this way. Do we really want them to define themselves by how sexy they look?

Children are special because they bear the image of God. Character should be emphasized, not physical appearance. The clothes we choose for them should be a reflection of this priority. They should not only be tasteful and age appropriate, but should communicate the ideals of shamefastness, chastity, and godly character.

So please, parents, don't get carried away by the madness! Let's save the innocence of our kids. Teach them that our sense of self is tied to how God sees us, not the world.

Father, thank you for the innocence of our children. Help us to guard and protect it and to build their self-image through emphasizing godly character, which is very precious in your sight. ~David Maxson

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

(Romans 12:1-2)

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:

Bill Gregory (360)710-0449

billgreg67@gmail.com

Bill Gregory's office hours are from 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. (Please call to make sure he is in before stopping by)

Attendance 12/27: 38

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution: 12/27: \$1826.23

January 03, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Thankfully God Doesn't Wait Until the End of the Year

There seems to be something almost magical about the end of one year and the beginning of a new year. It is so magical that many folks often make "New Year's Resolutions"—this is going to be the time that I start something new, or this is going to be the time that I stop that particular habit. And so, we wait. Something that we ought to be doing "today" is put off until that future day when the year changes. Or, with a year like this one, we put our hopes in the major difference that leaving one year and entering another year will supposedly bring.

But, what is the big deal about the first day of January? Why is that "the day" that seems to be the difference-maker? If there is something that is worth doing and will make a significant difference in our lives, why wait for another day beyond TODAY? Or, if there is something that is detrimental to my life and needs to be discontinued to get on a better path, why wait for another day beyond TODAY?

Aren't you glad that God doesn't wait for New Year's Day? In the Old Testament, the Jews celebrated the Day of Atonement once every year. On that one day every year, the high priest would enter into the Most Holy Place with the blood of a bull and then he would lay his hands on the scapegoat, and the sins of the people would be remembered and then sent away into the wilderness on that day every year (Heb. 10:3; 9:7; Lev. 16:1-34). Not so today! An alien sinner's sins are removed at the point of baptism (Acts 2:38; 22:16), never to be remembered again (Heb. 8:12). A child of God's sins are removed continually during his faithful walk and confession of sins (1 John 1:7, 9), never to be remembered again (Heb. 10:17). God doesn't wait until a "move convenient season" to forgive! He forgives immediately! "The Lord is not slack" (2 Pet. 3:9)! If God doesn't wait, why do you?

So, if there is something that you need to change in your life, in order to be right with God, don't wait until New Year's Day. Don't wait until you "get everything worked out." Don't wait until a more convenient season (Acts 24:25). Don't wait!

God told Ananias to say to Saul, "Why are you waiting?" (Acts 22:16). God told Paul to say to the Corinthians, "Behold, now is the accepted time" (2 Cor. 6:2). God told the Hebrew writer to quote from Psalm 95:7 three times, emphasizing the word "Today" five times (Heb. 3:7, 13, 15; 4:7). If something is the "right" thing to do, then it is right to do it "right now"! With God, every day is a "new day" (cf. Lam. 3:23). Make TODAY (not some day in the future) THE DAY that you take the necessary steps to get right with God! ~David Sproule

For this is the will of my father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (John 6:40)

Keep These Dates in Mind	January Birthdays and Anniversaries		
<p>Since we have entered into this time of uncertainty with those in the government asking us to keep our assemblies to a minimum and to use caution and discretion as we meet, any activities that may be planned will be announced in a timely fashion a week before they are planned to happen and will be put out on the call multiplier.</p> <p>Sandy Gray has volunteered to put out an informational email during the week to update the church of immediate prayer needs or information that needs to be disseminated before/in-between our scheduled meeting times. If you wish to be on this list, please contact her and give her your email information.</p>	Linda Lafferty 1/8 Holden Minor 1/15 Norm Hubbard 1/17 Henry Walker 1/18 Larry Moore 1/19 Mary Beth Walker 1/22 Eddie & Eunice Petross 1/24 Shirley Childers 1/24		Loretta Slettene 1/26 Mary Lewis 1/27 Jasmine Lafferty 1/27 Hannah Mendoza 1/29
Bible Studies			
Adult Bible Classes Sunday a - Judges Sunday p -James Wed p - John	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Thursday 10:00 a	
Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Marilyn Davis, Sandy Gray, Fran Henniger, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Shannon Mendoza,, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Bill & Linda Lafferty's daughter-in-law, Michael Stimson			



Jonni Marcotte is home with pacemaker installed and doing okay, but is very tired.

Fran Henniger's stent was removed this week and she is doing okay so far.

Carol Ayre is recovering from COVID slowly.

Doris Pennington is still having some breathing issues, related to COPD now rather than COVID.

Lupe Mendoza has two masses in her throat. They were able to take 3 biopsies from one of them. The second was too hard and too close to the jugular and other veins and they were worried puncturing a vessel, so they didn't get biopsies from the second. They are still waiting on results. Keep **Tom** in your prayers as well. The stress and waiting are taking their toll on him as well.

Katie Bott's uncle had to go into surgery unexpectedly this week and have an extremely large mass removed from his abdomen as well as some of his bowel. They are treating him for peritonitis and waiting to for him to regain his strength during his recovery.

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)

Confidence in God's Provision

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe (Prov. 18:10). This is a lesson that Solomon learned from his father, David. Many of the Psalms are prayers to the Lord.

"Hear my cry, O God; Give heed to my prayer. From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For You have been a refuge for me, A tower of strength against the enemy" (Psa. 61:1-3). This is a Psalm of prayer. Many times, David had been in a situation to cry out to God for help—in times of war, in times of personal sin, in times of family issues. Over and over he faced many challenges. During those challenges, he always cried out to the Lord. From that he learned to trust in Him. We see his confidence in his prayer. "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14). Similarly, in Hebrews, "Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward" (10:34).

It is faith that produces this confident hope. "Let me dwell in Your tent forever; Let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings. For You have heard my vows, O God; You have given me the inheritance of those who fear Your name" (Psa. 61:4-5). This is similar to "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3). We trust the One that is the Good Shepherd. "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep" (John 10:14-15).

David understood the promises of God. "You will prolong the king's life; His years will be as many generations. He will abide before God forever; Appoint lovingkindness and truth that they may preserve him. So I will sing praise to Your name forever, That I may pay my vows day by day" (Psa. 61:6-8).

There are some lessons that we can draw from this today. God knows our dilemmas and cares (1 Pet. 5:7). We are to trust God and "know in whom we have believed" (2 Tim. 1:12). We are to pray earnestly without losing heart (Luke 18:1). We can remember the mercies of God—His longsuffering and patience with us. That can motivate us to keep our vows just as Thomas declared, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). We can still say with confidence and trust, "lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Psa. 61:2). ~Josh Blackmer

Lord I bring to You my burdens and You know my situation
You know I can't make it without You
Comfort my heart,
Give me strength,
And help me carry on.
Amen!