

Reverencing God's Name

In today's digital world, it's sometimes difficult to keep up with the abbreviated terminology that accompanies today's fast-paced, youth-oriented electronic communication. For example, in the "Instant Messaging" (IM) world, the text-message language, "laughing out loud" becomes "lol." The phrase, "By the way" becomes "btw." And regrettably, some people are using "omg" for "Oh, my God!"

This last phrase seems to be on the lips of many who receive startling news. But as Christians, we need to stop and think before we utter this or any other phrase that flippantly uses God's name (cf. Exodus 20:7).

When Jesus was teaching His disciples how to pray in Matthew Chapter 6, the first thing He told them to say was this: "*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name*" (Matthew 6:9). Clearly, God's name itself is special. It encompasses His holy nature (1 Peter 1:15-16; cf. Leviticus 11:44-45), His teachings (2 Timothy 3:15 -KJV; cf. John 5:39); His moral authority (John 17:1-3; cf. John 8:10-11; Mark 2:1-12;), and His moral character (1 Thessalonians 4:7; 2 Peter 3:11). To speak the name of God is to call on the Creator and Sustainer of the universe (Hebrews 1:1-3; cf. Acts 17:24-25; Nehemiah 9:6).

In every way possible, we should honor and protect God's holy name, preserving its use for those occasions when we are speaking of Him or addressing Him in faith (Psalm 111:9 KJV; cf. Luke 1:49).

Let's be careful never to turn the hallowed name of Almighty God (Genesis 17:1 KJV) into just another flippant phrase on our lips or in a digital text message. ~Mike Riley

***"May all I am and do and say,
Give glory to my Lord always;
And may no act of mine cause shame
Nor bring reproach upon His name." —Anonymous***

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
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KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Do Not Worry

At some point we may have thought about how the wicked can have so much. Why does it seem that those that live in complete disregard for God and His judgments can live in abundance and ease? We read passages that speak to the prosperity of the righteous and the wicked being cut off and wonder, "*When will I prosper?*" (Psa. 1:3-4). The remedy for this kind of thinking is mentioned three times in Psalm 37. "*Do not fret because of evildoers*" (Psa. 37:1). "*Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way*" (Psa. 37:7). "*Do not fret; it leads only to evildoing*" (Psa. 37:8). Verses 7-11 of this Psalm give us a glimpse into the overall message.

"*Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him*" (Psa. 37:7a). "Rest" means to be silent and still, to take a time out. "*Be still and know that I am God*" (Psa. 46:10). We don't like waiting. We are no longer conditioned to wait. Waiting on the Lord is a big theme in the Old Testament. It is mentioned twice in this psalm (v. 7, 34). A patient waiting and confidence in the Lord is what is being encouraged. If we are not good at waiting, we are worse at being patient in waiting. Paul reminds us, "*But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it*" (Rom. 8:25). "*Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way*" (Psa. 37:7b). When someone says, "Don't worry about it," we normally respond with, "Oh, I'm glad you said that. I was about to worry there for a second." In this psalm, our worry is put into context. It is going to be worse for the wicked. We are instructed to "cease from anger" because one result of unbridled worry is anger. How many of you get angry watching the news? Things happen that we have no control over, and we wish it was different. It's the same for those that see the wicked prosper and worry about it. There is nothing we can do about it. That is God's work, not ours. "*Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity*" (Eph 4:26-27). This is again why we are encouraged not to worry. "*It leads only to evildoing*" (Psa. 37:8b). Often we try to "fix" things, and it makes it worse. Abraham said, "*Tell them you're my sister; they might kill me*" (Gen. 12:13). Sarah said, "Have a child with my servant girl. What could possibly go wrong?" (Gen. 16:2).

In this psalm, we can take comfort in the contrast of the wicked and righteous. Evildoers will be cut off and will be no more. The righteous will inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant prosperity. We must learn to rest in the Lord and patiently wait on Him. "*Depart from evil and do good, So you will abide forever. For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off. The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever*" (Psa. 37:27-29). ~Josh Blackmer

Keep These Dates in Mind	November Birthdays and Anniversaries		
Nov 12/5 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship 12/09 - Study of Denominations 7:00p 12/14 - Study of Denominations 7:00p 12/23 - Study of Denominations 7:00p 12/28 - Study of Denominations 7:00p	Mark Minor 12/04 Sandi Gray 12/14 Kyle McCown 12/19 Bill & Linda Lafferty 12/24		
	Teach me oh Lord the way of your statutes, and I will keep it to the end. (Ps. 119:33)		
Those with ongoing health issues:	Bible Studies		
Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Gerald Funnell, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Jim Preston	Adult Bible Classes (Fellowship Hall) Sunday am – 2 Samuel Wed pm – Gospel of John	Young Adult Class (Teen Room) Christian Living (Led by Danny Mendoza)	Ladies Class (Contact Sandi Gray for information)

IN OUR PRAYERS: (Updates -)

Linda Bills has been dealing with sciatica and is praying for relief soon.

Sandi Gray has had a number of medical issues, including the two surgeries on her arms, keep her in your prayers.

Fran and Bill Gregory as they travel back to Arizona and continue to heal from Nathan's death.

Bill Lafferty who had surgery on 12/9, that he will get better quickly.

Jim Preston as they have found the trigger for his migraines and that he will continue to improve.

Lonnie Rau as her shoulder continues to heal from the third surgery on it.

Loretta Slettene has a NEW phone number it is (509)579-8922.

Judy Ward's a-fib has settled down after months of trouble.

Leroy Ward is doing well after having a skin graft on his head after having a skin cancer removed.

Queca Woods who lost her sister in November, now asks for prayers for her brother who had back surgery and is having a multitude of complications associated with it. He is 85 and they all are concerned for him.

Lupe Mendoza's last chemo is December 22 and then in 3 months she will have the scan to confirm the cancer is still at bay. She has lost use of her dominant hand and is waiting on an appointment to see a neurologist.

Phyllis Hubbard broke her kneecap and is in Life Care in Richland where she will be for two months.

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)

Going on to Perfection

"Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits" (Hebrews 6:1-3)

How would you rate your spiritual maturity? Do you feel that you are growing in your understanding of God and His Will for your life or do you feel that your faith has become dull and you feel spiritually sluggish? What are the consequences of one's failing to mature in the faith?

The Hebrew Christians were struggling with their faith and were considering giving up on Christianity (cf. Hebrews 3:12; 4:11; 10:35). Why? Part of the reason appears that they were enduring persecution for the cause of Christ, which was something they could not control (cf. Hebrews 12:4); but, a much larger reason was something they could control: they had failed to mature as Christians.

As the opening passage above indicates, the Hebrew writer encourages them to move beyond the basic teachings of the faith (e.g., repentance, faith, baptism, etc.) and "*go on to perfection*" (Hebrews 6:1-2). In the original language the word translated for us as "perfection" in Hebrews 6:1, is "Teleiotes". This does not mean "sinless perfection". Rather the Greek root word for "Teleiotes", which is "Teleioo", is defined as "to complete, i.e., accomplish, or consummate: - consecrate, finish, fulfil, (make) perfect". The idea then behind "perfection" is for one to become spiritually mature.

Though the Hebrew Christians had for some time embraced the faith, they had failed to grow in the faith. The inspired writer states, "*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil*" (Hebrews 5:12-14).

The Hebrew writer had much more spiritually deeper things to reveal to them, such as Jesus being called by God as our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek but could not because these things were "*hard to explain*" and they had become "*dull of hearing*" (Hebrews 5:10-11). These more challenging to understand spiritual truths could encourage the Hebrew Christians to have greater faith in God, but the writer had difficulty being able to reveal them because the Hebrew Christians refused to do their part in growing up and were acting as "babes" (Hebrews 5:13). Furthermore, the "solid food" or more challenging to understand spiritual truths could help these Christians to avoid temptation and evil as they exercised their senses to "*discern both good and evil*" (Hebrews 5:14).

Am I able to handle spiritual "solid food" or do I still need to be spoon fed "spiritual baby food"? No matter how eloquent or dynamic a teacher or preacher may be, they cannot help me grow spiritually and help equip me with the tools I need to fight Satan if I do not do my part to invest the time and effort to grow spiritually. There is no shame in not understanding certain spiritual truths because I am a newer babe in Christ. The shame is when Christians fail to invest the time and effort to grow up.

~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ