

A Cup of Cold Water

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. (Luke 1:1-4)

How does a fairy tale begin?

It's like this: "Once upon a time, in a land far, far away..."

How does the gospel of Luke begin? It sounds quite different than a fairy tale, does it not? It sounds like a man who has done some investigation. It sounds like a historian who is careful to get all of his facts straight. It sounds like a good reporter who wants to get reliable information from first-hand sources.

This is a far cry from a fairy tale. If you're new to the Bible, maybe even a little skeptical about what's inside it, read the gospel of Luke and see if he is successful in what he said he wanted to do. See if he doesn't give you reason to believe that we can have "certainty" about the things we have been taught about Jesus because they are based on reliable testimony. ~David Maxson

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

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; Vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Bill Gregory (360)710-0449

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

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

Attendance 10/18: 48

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution: 10/18: \$3998.00

October 25, 2020

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



A Psalm of Thanksgiving

The book of Psalms is remarkable in so many ways. Many of the psalms come from the heart of a shepherd boy of Bethlehem and give us great insight into the very soul of a man after God's own heart.

One of the psalms repeats a phrase over and over. The psalmist said, "Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men" (Psa. 107:1, 8, 15, 21, 31). This phrase makes a natural division of five situations in this psalm where men should be filled with thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving for redemption. The first section (vss. 1-7) describes the times when God brought Israel from adversity and returned them to the land He promised Abraham's descendants. While it is true the sin of God's people often was the reason they were scattered, the psalm shows just how merciful God is toward His children. Those who were redeemed from the nations could so readily sing this psalm of thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving for souls which have been refreshed. In this section, the psalmist looks at the souls which have been brought low by the adversity around them. Their hearts are filled with darkness which is the result of ignoring God. They are bound up in affliction. Yet, when they cried out to God, He heard them. Their souls were filled with the blessing He gave to them. Their lives turned into joy because His mercy gave them what had been missing. The psalmist said, "Give thanks to the Lord for His wonderful works."

Thanksgiving for deliverance to those who were at the gates of death. This third section (vss. 15-20) parallels thoughts found in the previous section of those who were surrounded by distress. They were so burdened they could not even eat, yet when they cried out to the Lord, He heard them and saved them out of all their afflictions. "Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness."

Thanksgiving from those who were tossed in the seas. The psalmist turns his attention to those who sailed the seas and found themselves surrounded by tempestuous waves. As the waves lifted them to the heavens and then dropped them in the depths of the troughs, hope could so easily be lost. At their wit's end, they cried out to God, and He heard them, calmed the storms and brought them to safe havens.

Thanksgiving from those who assemble to worship in the company of the elders. The mercy of God is shown in the fruitful seasons where He waters the wilderness and feeds His people. Their crops increase and their herds multiply. He exalts the poor. Oh, that men would give thanks for all He does.

Thanksgiving from our hearts. The imagery in this psalm is different from what is around us, but the lesson is so obvious. God help us to give thanksgiving for all He does! ~Dan Jenkins

For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God to the steadfastness of Christ. (2 Thess. 3:3b-5)

Keep These Dates in Mind	October 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>	<p>LeRoy & Sue Pierce 10/4 Michael Manning 10/5 Kenneth Winstead 10/6 LaVern Engelke 10/8 Mark & Sue Minor 10/9 Tom & Lupe Mendoza 10/13</p>		<p>Clarence Botts 10/22 Melinda Botts 10/25 Harvey Jones 10/25 Tom Mendoza 10/25 Norm & Phyllis Hubbard 10/29</p>
Bible Studies			
Adult Bible Classes Sunday a - O.T. Sunday p -Colossians Wed p -Thessalonians	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Thursday 10:00 a	
<p>Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Marilyn Davis, Sandy Gray, Fran Henniger, Linda Laferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Shannon Mendoza,, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Bill & Linda Lafferty's daughter-in-law, Michael Stimson, Fred Fleming, Hubbard Family</p>			

A Model in Unity

When the people in Jerusalem asked, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37), the Lord's answer through Peter was very simply, "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins" (Acts 2:38). Those that "received his word were baptized: and there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). What was the result? "And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord" (Acts 2:46). These people were not in different denominations, they were Christians (Acts 11:26), members of the body (church) of Christ (Col. 1:18; Rom. 12:4-5). They were united together. "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and soul" (Acts 4:32). When a problem arose that might threaten that unity, it was quickly handled and harmony was preserved (Acts 5:1-11).

The Lord prayed, just before His death, for all believers, "that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me" (John 17:21). The Jerusalem church took that seriously, and they constantly worked to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

When the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, they were troubled with many kinds of problems. But one of the great problems, that was really a root of several other problems, was religious division. God's command then, and now, is found when Paul says, "Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). These disciples, unlike those in Jerusalem, were dividing into warring groups, that wore the name of Paul, Apollos, Cephas (Peter) and even Christ. Paul asked them, "Is Christ Divided?" (1 Cor. 1:13). What a question! The Jerusalem church could answer, "Christ cannot be divided." And that is right. The Jerusalem church maintained unity by teaching and following "the apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42), and truly caring for one another (Acts 4:32). So should we.

The poet said, "To thine own self be true." But there is a higher loyalty than that, and the Jerusalem church displayed it. They were loyal to God and to Jesus Christ! "Seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33) was not just a slogan, they lived by it. If following Christ meant danger and death for them, their commitment was firm. "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). They wanted to be free of sin, so they lived by words later uttered by Patrick Henry, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

Loyalty to God was rooted to loyalty to His word, also. They believed that word, they accepted it as God's word, and they consistently preached it that way. "And for this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when ye received from us the word of the message, even the word of God, ye accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God, which also worketh in you that believe....For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (! Thess. 2:13; Rom 1:6). Disciples were later told, "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), but the Jerusalem church set the pattern in doing it first.

When some were departing from the gospel of Christ, warning was given by the apostle Paul not to preach another gospel. "I marvel that ye are so quickly removing from him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel; which is not another gospel only there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema" (Gal. 1:6-8). But surely they had to remember those in the Jerusalem church who died, to deliver and preserve that gospel (Stephen in Acts 7 and the apostle James in Acts 12). The Jerusalem church did "hold the pattern of sound words" (2 Tim. 1:13) long before Paul wrote those words to Timothy. They studied the word, they knew the word, they loved the word, they lived the word, and they taught it. The word of God of salvation in Christ was their priority in preaching Christ and Him Crucified. ~Clem Thurman

Let's keep all of our church family in our prayers as flu season is coming and we are still recovering from COVID-19.



In Our Prayers

Build Your House on the Rock

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it has been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great (Luke 6:46-49)

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)