

The Goodness of God

The apostle Paul stated in Romans 2:4, "...the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance."
"We love him. because he first loved us" (John 4:19). In this article, I want you to think carefully about the goodness of God.

1. The goodness of God is shown by the gift of His Son for mankind. Yes, John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only be- gotten Son..." Paul in speaking of this gift said, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15). Paul said that God's gift of His Son for our sins is so wonderful and meaningful that it cannot be adequately described with words. It is an "...unspeakable gift". God's goodness is supremely seen by the gift of His Son for our sins. Hebrews 2:9 tells us that Jesus, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man. How thankful we should be!
2. The goodness of God is seen by the fact that He is no respecter of persons. All men are equal in God's sight. It doesn't matter whether we are rich or poor, black or white, or whatever. God loves all men and wants them to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). Peter said at the house of the Gentile, Cornelius, "...of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:34,35). Yes, God is impartial. This is a wonderful quality that manifests His goodness.
3. The goodness of God is seen by His mercy and care for us. In 2 Corinthians 1:3, God is described as "...the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort." These are marvelous statements that show God's goodness. Peter wrote, "casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Where would we be without God's mercy, concern, and kind-ness? We are told in Hebrews 13:5, "...I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." What a wonderful promise! I want to ask you, has the goodness of God led you to repentance? There's no question about God's goodness. Do you love Him because He first loved you? John said, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments..." (1 John 5:3). Friends, the God of heaven is good. May we all gladly serve Him. ~Ken Tyler

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Meeting times:

Sunday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday:

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 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 03/17: N/A | Budget \$2400.33 | Contribution 03/17 5368.00

March 24, 2019

Kennewick Church of Christ

Things To Consider

The Pharisees had a way of praying, giving and fasting, that displeased the Lord. He told his disciples to not do as the Pharisees did. This sect of the Jews performed their religious exercises to be seen of men. They made a show of their religion. They prayed in the public markets and on the streets; and when they gave alms, they sounded a trumpet before them. All their works they did to be seen of men, and Jesus declared they had no greater reward than the approbation of men.

In the same sermon Jesus told to his disciples, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 6:16). On the surface this may look like he is teaching his disciples to do what he condemned in the Pharisees. But there is a wide difference between doing a good deed sincerely and doing it hypocritically. When Jesus told his disciples to let their light shine before men, he did not mean that the main purpose of good works is to be seen of men. In that case, if there was no one to look on, they would let the good work go undone.

Probably the priest and Levite would have done something to relieve the distress of the man who was waylaid between Jerusalem and Jericho, if there had been any one to see them do it. The Samaritan performed this service in a way that was pleasing to the Lord. He did it to relieve human suffering, and not to be seen of men. Nevertheless, the Samaritan's act shines as a light in the world. Paul said to the Philippians, "Do all things without murmurings and disputing, that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:14, 15). Living the Christian life is an effective way of teaching men the truth. It does very little good to preach the gospel faithfully unless it is lived the way it is preached.

How much is the church helped when a man of the world does a good deed? How much is the church helped when one does good in some human organization? While instances of distress may be relieved in these cases, yet the cause of the Lord is not advanced. Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light unto all that are in the house" (Matt. 5:14, 15). Men who ignore the church and the name of Christ when they do good works, put their light under a bushel.

One thing that church members should always keep in mind is that they can live in a way that does the church more harm than good. When the shadow of the earth falls on the moon, there is an eclipse. When the world gets between Christ and Christians, there is no light. A window pane cannot be seen a mile away if it is in the shade. But if the sun shines on it, it can be seen several miles in the distance. It is not the glass that you see, but the reflected glory of the sun. Christians are the light of the world only in the sense that Christ shines through them.

Many church members try to shine by spells and spasms. They switch their lights off and on, like children playing with electric lights in a room. Religion is only a formality with them. When they think it is time to shine, they switch on their light by doing something spectacular. Stingy people will sometimes break their own hearts by liberal giving, when they decide to make a show.

Finally, Jesus says, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (Jno. 8:12). The main thing for Christians to keep in mind is that they shine as lights in the world only by following where Jesus leads. ~W. M. Davis

Keep These Dates in Mind	March Birthdays and Anniversaries	
03/10 Potluck today Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 03/20 Wed. Night Soup Night 5:00p 03/31 Fifth Sunday Singing 04/07 First Sunday Potluck 04/13 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 04/14 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 04/19 Family Fun Night 6:00p	Sammie Engelke 3/7 Tom & Thelma Gritzen 3/14 Doris Pennington 3/15 Faye Henry 3/17 Pansy Caywood 3/20 Amanda McCrickard 3/22 Lucy Larsen 3/23 Bill Henniger 3/31	May you keep your way pure by guarding it according to His word. May you seek the Lord with your whole heart, so as not to wander from his commandments. May you store up the word in your heart so that you do not sin

Create in me a pure heart O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me



Issues (ongoing): Karen McBurney, Bob Childers, Shirley Childers, Kaleb McCrickard, Sue Aldrich, Marji Lindholm, The Johnson family, Marilyn Davis, Randy Hargus, Eunice Petros, Shawna Stephens, Tami Pennington

Norm Goldsmith is home. Keep him and Barb in your prayers as he heals. They now have home care coming to help them, so let's be thankful for that and that he is home.

Bob **Childers** is still in the hospital with several threatening conditions. Please keep him and Shirley in your prayers as they struggle with his Parkinson's and failing health.

Karen McBurney has asked for us to keep her family in our prayers as they are dealing with health issues.

Bible Studies		
Adult Bible Classes Sunday am.–Ephesians Wed pm – Shadows of the church from the old testament	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Thursday 10:00a.m – 11:30a.m.

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)

First Pure Then Peaceable

Purity of doctrine and practice on the part of the church is absolutely essential and must be sought after by everyone who loves the Lord. We are charged to "Contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). A pure faith maybe enjoined only by constant vigilance against every suggestion and semblance of error.

James wrote, "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable" (James 3: 17). To teach that this passage discusses the doctrine of the church is an incorrect exegesis. James' teaching here applies to the peace in the heart of the individual and was designed to emphasize that peace cannot reign until purity controls the heart.

However, the principle is an eternal one. Peace cannot exist in the church until purity has been obtained. It is the obligation of the church to first attain purity in doctrine and teaching. In the absence of such there can be no peace among brethren. False teachers constitute a threat to the peace and security of the saints today just as they did nearly two thousand years ago, and they must be resisted and refuted. When Jude wrote his short epistle the welfare of those to whom he wrote was being threatened. Therefore, his purpose was to stir up his readers to resist immediately all false teachers. He sought to impel them to reject the teachers and to repudiate their teaching. They were to defend with all their might the faith which had been delivered to them. To have followed Jude's instruction would have no doubt caused a stir in the church. But to have failed to do so would have been in direct disobedience to God and would have allowed error to have had free course. Which would have been better---to disturb the "peace" of the church and obey God or to keep things "peaceful" and disobey God thus allowing the false teachers to spread their doctrine?

Which is better today? Is there any difference? Is it better to disturb the "peace" of the church, obey God and refute the false teacher and doctrine, or is it better to keep the "peace" and thereby disobey God and allow the false teacher and his doctrine to subvert the church?

We believe Christians have no choice in this matter. If we are to be New Testament Christians then we must obey the commands it contains. We are "sick and tired" of hearing brethren cry for peace at the expense of sound doctrine. Paul said, "I am set for the defense of the gospel" (Phil.1:16) Are we ready to defend the faith as he was? Paul also said we should, "Preach the word, be instant, in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. But having itching ears, will heap for themselves teachers after their own lust; and will turn away from the truth and turn aside to fables. (2 Tim. 4:2-4) If, at the expense of peace among one another, we fail to follow this divine command, then we have forfeited our right to be called New Testament Christians!

Division is evil. Jesus prayed for unity among Christians. (Jn. 17:20-21) Paul condemned the division at Corinth (1 Cor. 1 :10) and commanded them to "Speak the same thing" and "be perfected in the same mind and in the same judgment." But regardless of the evils of division the banner of truth must wave. And when brethren haul down the flag of truth and place in its stead the flag of peace, they are warming by the devil's fire.

Division is sad. It involves the loss of precious souls. But as sad and as evil as division is, I would rather stand with tears in my eyes and see the church divide than to see it go into apostasy. Doctrine is that important. Purity is that demanding. ~William S. Cline