

The Prophets' Desire Is Ours

God's prophets endured hardship, persecution and death to tell forth the inspired Word of God. Yet, they did not have the plan of salvation revealed to them. They delivered the key elements without understanding how and to whom they would be applied. Angels also wanted to know how God would save man, but that plan was reserved for Christ's followers (1 Peter 1:10-12).

Prophets wrote Scripture as the Holy Spirit directed them (2 Peter 1:20-21). Peter indicated they did not comprehend some of the things they wrote but searched their own writings to gain understanding of God's plan. Jesus told His followers that astonishing truth (Matthew 13:16-17).

Moses wrote of God's plan for the seed of woman to crush the head of Satan, but he did not realize the seed would be the Christ (Genesis 3:15). Isaiah told of the suffering servant and the glory that would follow, but he did not understand it would take place on the cross (Isaiah 53). David wrote a song anticipating the glorious resurrection that would follow the suffering, but he did not fully appreciate the powerful events (Psalm 16:8-11).

The singer of Israel recorded the words that would be spoken on the cross, but he did not realize Who would speak them (Psalm 22). The Messianic prophet spoke of a kingdom into which people from all nations would flow (Isaiah 2:1-5). He also described the painful beating God's Sin-Bearer would receive, leaving him unrecognizable (52:13-15). Hosea told of those who had not been God's people seeing a day in which they would be called sons of the living God (Hosea 1:10; 2:23).

Christians are greatly blessed. We come to know the unmerited favor God bestowed through the offering of His Son (Hebrews 11:39-40). Members of the church receive the very understanding for which the prophets longed. Praise God for the blessings we have in Christ.

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June 20, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Guilt and Regret

I have heard people say it time and time again, "If I could go back, I would do things differently." Just like most people, I hate thinking about the sin that has been in my life. I hate knowing that I ever or disappointed other people. I also hate knowing that I sinned against my God. On a good day, when I think about the things of the past, I stop and praise God that I am no longer living the kind of life characteristic of me in the past. However, on the bad days, when my faith is shaken, I can find myself dwelling in the past and in regret. I believe there is something that we all need to remember when we find ourselves dwelling in regret.

As Christians, we need to remember the God Who we serve and the forgiveness He so graciously offers. I know there are those who try to escape any personal responsibility for sin, and I hope these individuals will repent and come back to the Lord. Yet, we also have many of our brothers and sisters in Christ who struggle with regret and guilt even when they have done everything that they need to do in order to be forgiven. I think we all, and especially those who struggle with things like this, need to remember that we do not have to live with guilt. While there may be things for which we were once guilty, for which, therefore, we may experience earthly consequences, we do not have to live with guilt before God. In 2 Corinthians 7:10 and 1 John 1:9, we can see how to get one's relationship back into good standing with God. On top of not having to live in guilt, we also do not have to dwell in regret. That does not mean we forget everything we have ever done. In fact, remembering sin in our past can help us remain humble as we live for God. Yet, dwelling in regret and guilt holds us back from living the Christian life that we ought to live. Do we really believe God when He says He will forgive us? I think at times we fail to grab hold of the salvation that has been offered to us because we are still scared of not being good enough. I think it also scares us to give up control to anybody other than ourselves.

The reality is that we are not good enough. That is why we needed and continue to need Christ. That is not a statement meant to devalue us as Christians. God knew that we would struggle and sin, and that is why he offers us a way back through His Son. It is amazing to serve a God Who loves us so much that He gave His Son to die for us as sinners. It is also such a great blessing as Christians to be part of the church and to be surrounded by people who want to see us come back when we have sinned (James 5:16; Galatians 6:1). Let us no longer let guilt and regret control our lives, but let us instead continue to give our lives to Christ and praise God for the forgiveness that we have from Him. ~Derek Broome

Behold the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called. The Lord is our righteousness. (Jeremiah 33:14-18)

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (Romans 10:1-4)

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:

Attendance 06/13: 34 | Budget \$2484.00 | Contribution: 06/13: \$2971.32

Keep These Dates in Mind**June Birthdays and Anniversaries**

June 6 – Potluck

Leland Davis 6/1
 Henry & Mary Beth Walker 6/2
 Fran Henniger 6/7
 Rachel Melder 6/8
 Phyllis Hubbard 6/10
 Jack & Wanda Danley 6/15
 Craig Bolt 6/15
 Maurice Bunker 6/15

Ken & Sallie Winstead 6/17
 Thelma Gritzan 6/19
 Bill & Fran Gregofry 6/19
 Sue Pierce 6/26
 Jenifer Mooney 6/28
 Karen McBurney 6/30
 Shannon Mendoza 6/30

Bible Studies**Adult Bible Classes**

Sunday a – 1 Samuel
 Sunday p - Romans
 Wed p – The Church
 (5-week study)

**Young Adults class-
Teen Room** (led by
Danny Mendoza)**Ladies Class**
(Contact Sandi
Gray for
information)

Please let Lynette Jones know about upcoming events or prayer request so she can include them in the bulletin.

Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce Michael Stimson, Jim Preston

**In Our
Prayers**

Pat Lindsay had a fall after fainting Friday night. A new medicine caused the fainting spell. She was checked out at the hospital and found to be okay. She is home now.

The word sin is outdated according to the postmodern narrative. Yet, in reality, the word still describes attitudes and activities that pack a powerful punch. Its original meaning is “to miss the mark.” There is a Creator, and He wants us to behave a certain way so that we can have the best life possible. When we miss that mark, often by our own outright rebellion – because we think we know better – it is called sin. Sin destroys. It destroys individual lives temporally and in eternity. When it becomes rampant, it brings down entire cultures. “Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). Nobody is perfect; everybody sins. However, in the person of Christ Jesus, there is redemption from those eternal consequences of it.

~Robison’s Rubies

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)

Given Over to a Stubborn Heart

“I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would have none of Me. So, I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, to walk in their own counsels. Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways! I would soon subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their adversaries” (Psalm 81:10-14).

The rock musician Scott Stapp once said, “I always believed in God and Christ, but I was in rebellion trying to make my relationship with God fit into my life instead of making my life fit in with him. I was stubborn.” Can you relate to that statement? Do you find yourself at times stubbornly resisting God and trying to make Him fit into your will instead of being submissive and allowing Him to fit you into His Will?

In Psalm 81 God speaks of how He had blessed His people when He delivered them from Egyptian bondage: “I removed his shoulder from the burden; his hands were freed from the baskets. You called in trouble, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah” (Psalm 81:6-7). However, His people were being tempted to turn away from Him and worship other gods (Psalm 81:8-9). God promises them great blessings if they will continue to follow Him: “I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide, and I will fill it” (Psalm 81:10). God would give them the finest of wheat and honey from the rock if they remained faithful (Psalm 81:16). Furthermore, the Lord promises them deliverance from their enemies: “Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways! I would soon subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their adversaries” (Psalm 81:13-14).

However, God’s people rejected Him: “But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would have none of Me” (Psalm 81:11). What an incredible statement by God! God says His people, the very ones he rescued from Egyptian bondage, would now have none of Him! God desired greatly to bless them, but now He could not. He had to leave them over to their own devices and give them up to their own stubborn will: “So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, to walk in their own counsels” (Psalm 81:12). God had to let them learn the hard way by allowing them to experience the consequences of their own choice to reject Him!

Am I stubborn? It is good to be persistent and refuse to give up when following God’s Will in our lives (e.g. the persistent widow, Luke 18:1-8). It is evil to stubbornly resist following what God tells us to do. Again, do I find myself acting like the musician Scott Stapp who struggled with trying to fit God into his will instead of subjecting himself to God’s Will? When I persist in stubbornly refusing to humble myself before God and submit myself to His Will, there will come a point when God can no longer help me and will have to give me over to my own stubborn heart. The father of the prodigal son had to do this. He had to allow his son to move away and experience the consequences of his stubborn rejection of him (Luke 15:11-21). Let us strive to have a submissive heart before God so that we can open our mouths and let God fill us with His blessings. Rejoice in God’s leadership in our lives and refuse to rebel against God so that He will not have to give us over to our own stubborn hearts!

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he” (Proverbs 16:18-20).

~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Church of Christ