

**Have you ever heard anyone remark, "It's so hard to live the Christian life"?**

*It is true that God has not promised to shield His children from challenges and temptations. He knows that We develop spiritual muscles only as we face the realities of life and exercise the determination to do right. Admittedly, Christians who were deeply involved in the ways of the world are likely to have difficulty as they form a new life-pattern. But if we want to see Christianity in its true perspective - if we want to realize just what an easy life it is -we need to look at our peers who are living by the morals, values and concepts of the world. What hardships do the majority face? Broken homes and broken children, immorality and the resulting diseases, drug and alcohol addiction, compulsive gambling, lying, guilt -and too often life ends in premature death, brought on by sin. God has given the guidance of His word to help us live safely in an alien environment. Compared to a worldly life, the Christian life is easy!*

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Blessed are you O Lord, teach me your statutes!

With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth,

In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches

I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

**Kennewick Church of Christ**

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336

509-783-4013

Website: [www.kennewickcoc.com](http://www.kennewickcoc.com)

Facebook page: 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](mailto:ccbotts@hotmail.com)

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; [vern.engelke@gmail.com](mailto:vern.engelke@gmail.com)

**Minister:**

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

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

Attendance 04/28 77 |

Budget \$2400.33 |

Contribution 04/28 N/A



**Kennewick Church of Christ**

**What is truth?**

There are those who would ask this question to suggest that there is no such thing as truth, that there is no absolute, that the answer depends on the values of the one who is giving it, and that "Truth" varies from culture to culture and from country to country.

Is it really left up to each individual to decide what the truth is, what is right and what is wrong, what he will accept and what he will reject, what is good for him and what is bad for him?

Surely if we believe there is a God in heaven, that there is a Creator, that he is all-powerful, knows all, sees all, hears all, and loves all, then we would have to conclude that He knows the facts, He knows our needs, and He knows what to tell us so that we may be saved and have the hope of eternal life. He would, therefore, not lie to us, deceive us, or mislead us. Neither would He tell one to do one thing and another to do something else. He would not have one message for one culture and another message for another culture. He created all of us, and He knows we are all in sin. Because of that, He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for the sins of the whole world. Jesus Himself said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

There is one God, one Lord, one Spirit, one faith, one baptism, one church, and one hope (Ephesians 4:4-6). We are also told that there is one way, one door, one gospel, one foundation, one name, one worship, one day of worship, one heaven, and one hell. In all these things, and others which could be added, there is ONLY ONE and all of us know that ONE means ONE, not TWO or THREE or MORE. Someone can explain truth away, misinterpret it, or reject it, but it remains, in spite of all, ONLY ONE. Fact is fact and truth is truth, and it does not change.

The Lord has revealed His will to us through the pages of the Bible. It is inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16,17), it is Spirit and life (John 6:63), and is therefore from God and is God's word. It should not be added to, subtracted from, or changed, but left as it is (Revelation 22:18,19). God knew man's needs and, in response to those needs, He told man what he must do. With all people having the same disease - he disease of sin - God prescribed the same remedy for all (Mark 16:15,16). The Lord knows what He wants us to do. He has told all of us to do the same thing, and when we do that, He saves all of us the same way, and adds all of us to His one church (Acts 2:38,47). God has spoken (Hebrews 1:1,2). He has spoken the truth (John 8:32). We are then to live by it, preach it, and take it to every creature under heaven. Christ tells us that God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth (John 4:24). As the Lord's people, we are to direct our worship to God, in all sincerity and humility, and to worship Him as he has directed or commanded. Anything less than that, or more than that, will not be accepted. The Lord's word, the truth, is said to be the perfect law of liberty (James 1:25). We are exhorted to be doers of the word, not hearers only, deceiving ourselves (James 1:22). Christ says, "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14). His word will never pass away (Matthew 24:35) and in the last day all will be judged by His word (John 12:48). God does not lie; He cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). He has always spoken the truth and will always speak the truth through His word. The gospel preached by the apostles in the first century is the same gospel that is to be preached today. It saved sinners then, and it saves sinner now. It is just as modern and up-to-date as the times. Why should man change it? Woe be to those who would attempt to do so. We can see in the inspired record what has happened with those of the past who have departed from God's truth. To change truth turns it into a lie, and a lie will damn all who follow it.

The truth, then, is the truth, consisting of facts, true information, and commands directly from the mind of God. Whether we like it or we don't like it, whether we accept it or we reject it, it remains the same. May God help us to believe the truth, to obey it, to live by it, to preach it, and never to depart from it or to be ashamed of it, so that in the last day we will be judged by the word to be faithful to God, and to be worthy of eternal life. ~J. C. Choate

<i>Keep These Dates in Mind</i>	<i>May Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>		
<b>05/05</b> First Sunday Potluck 05/11 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 05/12 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 05/15 Soup Night 05/24 Family Night 6:00p <b>06/02</b> First Sunday Potluck 06/08 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 06/09 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 06/21 Family Fun Night 6:00p	Lynette Jones 5/4 Gerald Funnell 5/5 Cathy Heston 5/6 Jared Bolt 5/7 Bill Lafferty 5/8 Barbara Goldsmith 5/16 Tom Gritzan 5/17 Dustin McCrickard 5/30	<b><i>Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.</i></b>	
<b><i>Bible Studies</i></b>			
	<b><i>Adult Bible Classes</i></b> Sunday am.–O.T. Beginning in Gen 12 Wed pm – Shadows of the church from the O.T	<b><i>Youth Classes</i></b> Classroom Wing <b><i>Teen Class -</i></b> Teen Room	<b><i>Ladies Class</i></b> Thursday 10:00a.m – 11:30a.m.



**Issues (ongoing):** Karen McBurney, Shirley Childers, Kaleb McCrickard, Sue Aldrich, Marji Lindholm, The Johnson family, Marilyn Davis, Randy Hargus, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington  
 Many have asked for prayers for family members including **Karen McBurney (father), Amanda McCrickard (mother), Leland and Marilyn Davis (daughter)**. Please add them to your prayer list.

This is the last day of our lectureship. It has been a blessing for all those who have participated. Please join us for the last day, which includes two lessons this morning and two this evening, with a potluck dinner after the morning service.

### ***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)

### **Liberals and Liberalism**

The New Testament plainly foretold of a great apostasy from the faith. “...Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth” (1 Tim. 4:1-3).

Paul met with the elders of the church of Ephesus and said, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember; that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears” (Acts 20:28-31). Sadly, this text reveals that even elders of the church would be among those who lead the way into apostasy. Sad, said indeed! Not much has changed in the last 2,000 years. The same is going on today in the Lord’s church in so many places. If it’s not where you are, it’s in your back door or just around the corner.

The “left” is referred to as “liberal” or “progressive.” More and more individuals and congregations are becoming progressive. When liberals use the word progressive, they have nothing good in mind. They have “change” and “transform” as their mission as opposed to maintaining things as God has legislated. They have no love for the Truth even though Jesus said the truth would set men free from sin (John 8:31-32). They desire to employ and advocate what they call more “enlightened” ideas. They do not intend to be bound or limited by the Scriptures. They want to progress beyond the limits of the Scriptures. However, maintaining things as they have always been (divine tradition), is a good thing. It’s ordained of God! Why do they think they have a better plan than what God has given?

Every Christian and every congregation is obligated to keep the decrees and traditions “...that were ordained of the apostles and elders” (Acts 16:4). We are to hold to and maintain God’s doctrine, teaching, ordinance, law, rules, requirements, etc. Liberalism/progressivism says to throw it all out the door, it’s not important, we can’t understand the truth anyway, we serve a loving God (as if that means He will overlook disobedience). All of God’s Word is to be respected because it’s divine (from heaven). It’s holy. It’s truth.

To deviate and digress from God’s Order carries strict and severe penalties. By inspiration Paul wrote these words, “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth...” (Gal. 3:1)? That’s what liberals do to those who are gullible enough to listen to them. They bewitch, charm, persuade, trick, and fascinate with false representations. To follow their ways makes one’s religion vain (v 4). To follow liberalism’s course will cut you off from God (cf. Gal. 5:4)!

The error of liberalism is described as pernicious. It’s lethal/deadly. Second Peter 2:1-3 describes liberals. “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.” Don’t buy into their lie. God demands respect for his Word.

God’s power to save is in the inspired word – the Bible. “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21). Liberals are ashamed of the divine word, but faithful servants of God are not. Paul wasn’t ashamed of it and said so. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for IT is the power of God unto salvation...” (Rom. 1:16). When you take the Word away by perverting it, you take away God’s power to save! “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18).

~Garland M. Robinson,(excerpted)