

God's Promises to Man?

For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 2: 18

"But you don't understand."

It's hard for us to trust someone who is trying to help us when they don't understand what we're going through. I feel unqualified when dealing with someone going through a nasty divorce; someone trying to raise children as a single parent; someone dealing with the loss of a child; or someone who is experiencing chronic pain of some kind.

However, we know Jesus can sympathize with whatever we're going through. He knew physical pain. He suffered the most agonizing death imaginable.

Jesus knew emotional and spiritual pain. He had his closest friends forsake him and betray him.

Jesus knew stress. His stress didn't come from a selfish desire for protection, but because he felt an overwhelming burden for other people (thousands at a time on occasion). Jesus experienced sleepless nights when he would pray and find comfort that only God could give him.

What a blessing that we can carry all the choice to believe and obey Him or to reject Him. We reap the consequences of our decision. ~Wayne Barrier

By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might, for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory. (Proverbs 24:1-6)

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: kenncoc@gmail.com

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

billgreg67@gmail.com

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

December 20, 2020

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



The "Baseball Game" Jesus Created

Just suppose someone made a perfect translation of the official rules of baseball and sent them to a distant land. When the people there received that rule book they were fascinated and decided to introduce this sport into their land. The baseball field was laid out according to the rule book with every distance measured accurately. The strike zone was learned and soon everyone knew that "It's one, two, three strikes you're out, at the old ballgame." They knew balls and strikes. They knew the definition of a balk, the infield fly rule and a double play. Now think about this. Had then invented a new game? *Or were they simply playing an old game in a new place?*

Now suppose that in our own land everyone lost interest in baseball. There were attempts to make it more exciting with every team making up its own rules. Soon no one had any desire to watch or play the original sport. Suppose that the game stopped being played altogether and five hundred years passed. Then someone found the old rulebook and began encouraging others to get involved in the game. A baseball field was laid out with every distance measured accurately. The strike zone was learned and soon everyone knew that "It's one, two, three strikes you're out, at the old ballgame." They knew balls and strikes. They knew the definition of a balk, the infield fly rule and a double play. Now think about this. Had then invented a new game? *Or were they simply playing an old game at a new time?*

In this same way, imagine a world where Jesus introduced a new "game" called Christianity. He gave a "rule book," which was easily understandable, and soon the "game" was found throughout the first century world. Everyone knew the "rules" about salvation, the Lord's supper, the works of the flesh, the fruit of the spirit, heaven, the return of Jesus and the daily life of Christians. They knew about His church, purchased with His own blood. That book was translated into many languages and the *same* "game" was found in many nations.

Imagine people beginning to change the "rules" to make it fit better into their definition of what a "game/church" should be like. Imagine the book being laid aside with every person feeling free to write his own rules. Soon it would be impossible to even recognize how Jesus planned for the "game" to be played.

Do you know what this church is about? We have taken the "rule book" and are doing all we can to play the "old game" in a new time and a new place. This should make the "Rule Writer" so happy! Come, let's study His book together. ~Dan Jenkins

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear through the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam though the mountains tremble at its swelling. (Ps. 46:1-3)

Attendance 12/13: 38

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution: 12/13: \$5441.00

Keep These Dates in Mind

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.

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.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Mark Minor 12/4
 Sandi Gray 12/14
 Bill Gregory 12/14
 Kyle McCowen 12/19
 Bill & Linda Lafferty 12/24

*You're always
braver than you
believe, and
stronger than you
seem, and smarter
than you think.*

(Winnie the Pooh,
Hundred Acre Wood)

Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes

Sunday a - O.T.
 Sunday p -James
 Wed p -Thessalonians

Youth Classes

Classroom Wing
Teen Class -
 Teen Room

Ladies Class

Thursday 10:00 a

Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Marilyn Davis, Sandy Gray, Fran Henniger, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Shannon Mendoza,, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Bill & Linda Lafferty's daughter-in-law, Michael Stimson



Lupe Mendosa's biopsy did not go as planned. The lymph node they wanted to test was deeper than they thought, and the surgeon was not able to get to it with the tools he had at the surgery center. The biopsy will need to be rescheduled at the hospital as soon as possible. This is a very stressful time for Lupe and Tom and the family; please keep them in prayer.

Jonni (Crow) Marcotte's open heart went well and she is recovering.

Doris Pennington is still having some breathing issues as she recovers from covid. Her cardiologist thinks she still has some infection in her lungs, and Doris is undergoing tests. She says she doesn't have as much stamina as she'd like.

Fran Henniger's kidney stone surgery went as expected and she is home.

Craig Bolt's older brother, Mike Bolt, passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack on 12/14. Please keep the Bolt's in your prayers during this time.

Sandi Gray's surgery has been put off indefinitely as her doctor's have determined it may not be necessary.

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)

Overcoming The Obstacles We Face

"Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death" (Revelation 2:10-11).

As Christians we are told we are going to have trials in this life. In fact, we are told to count it all joy when we face various trials (James 1:2-4). However, do you ever get tired of the trials you face in this life? Do you find yourself getting weary of having to overcome the various obstacles before you?

Jesus understands that it is tempting for us to become weary of having to overcome the various challenges before us as Christians (cf. Hebrews 4:15). As the opening passage above indicates, Jesus understood the trials the church at Smyrna faced and was encouraging them to "overcome" (Revelations 2:8, 10-11). While the book of Revelation can be a challenging book to understand, its core message is not. The main message of the book is that blessings await those who "overcome"!

The apostle John was told by Jesus to write the things which Jesus revealed to him and send it to the seven churches in the province of Asia (Revelation 1:11). Each of these churches had obstacles to overcome. Some, such as the church at Smyrna and Philadelphia were struggling with persecutions from the outside (cf. Revelation 2:9-10; 3:8-9). Others, such as the church at Pergamos and Thyatira, were struggling with needing to combat false teaching which had infiltrated the church (Revelation 2:14-16; 2:20-23). Then again, there were others, such as the church at Ephesus, Sardis, and Laodicea, that were struggling with inward conflicts such as losing their love for Christ, becoming lukewarm in their service to Christ, and even becoming spiritually dead (cf. Revelation 2:4; 3:15-17; 2:1-2). The apostle John himself had his own challenges to face as he had been arrested and placed on the island of Patmos for holding to the Word of God (Revelation 1:9). Just as every Christian in those churches faced challenges, so we too face obstacles which we need to overcome.

However, not only does Jesus tell these Christians that have obstacles to overcome and that many of them need to repent of sins which they have committed (cf. Revelation 2:5, 16, 22; 3:3, 19), but He encourages all of them that great blessings await those who overcome. He says, "To him who overcomes I will give to eat of the tree of life..." (Revelation 2:7). Jesus adds, "He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death" (Revelation 2:11). Again, He states, "To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat..." (Revelation 2:17). Moreover, Jesus notes, "And he who overcomes, and keeps My words until the end, to him I will give power over the nations" (Revelation 2:26). Then, he adds, "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels" (Revelation 3:5). Again, Jesus states, "He who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God..." (Revelation 3:12). Finally, he says, "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne" (Revelation 3:21).

It is tempting to become weary as we daily face trials. However, I rejoice that as I go through these trials, Jesus encourages me by promising me great blessings if I will overcome. Today, whether the obstacles I face come from the outside or from within my own self, I will strive to overcome!

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9) ~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year