

### God's Promises to Man?

And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. 2 Thessalonians 3:4

The apostle Paul's letters are literally packed with references to the Lord. In almost every sentence (or at least every other) you'll find some mention of God, Christ, Jesus, Lord, etc.

This emphasis reveals a unique perspective that Paul possessed. The Lord literally permeated and dominated all his thoughts. If a problem arose, he thought of the Lord. As he searched for solutions, he thought of the Lord. As he thought of the good things in his life, he thought of the Lord. As he thought of the positive things in the lives of others (as in this verse), he thought of the Lord.

What did this perspective do for him? First of all, it made him more thankful. He never took credit for himself. His mind was so full of the Lord, there simply was no room for self.

Second, it made him more positive. No matter how bad things looked (for himself or for others) thoughts of the Lord kept him from despair.

Finally, it made him more focused. Selfish concerns were kept at bay because all of his goals in life found their end in Christ.

Father, give us a mind like Paul's. Help us to lose all thoughts of self and think only of you. ~ David Maxson

**Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. (Rev.21:1-4)**

#### Kennewick Church of Christ

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336  
509-783-4013

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

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: [kenncoc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ccbotts@hotmail.com)

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

#### Minister:

Bill Gregory (360)710-0449

[billgreg67@gmail.com](mailto: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)

Attendance 12/20: N/A

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution: 12/20: \$2267.00

December 27, 2020

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



### Are We Distracted?

It feels like there are so many things clamoring for our attention. Things like demands from work, the family schedule, end of the year preparations and seasonal shopping. On top of all that the media outlets are cascading with headlines about the election, fraud, spies, Corona, masks, infringement of rights, political unrest, persecution in Nigeria. On and on and on. All of it is the most important and all of it has to be dealt with now. It is no wonder why anxiety is the most common mental disorder in the United States. It affects 40 million Americans. That's 18% of the population. Even before the onset of Covid-19 and all the fear and regulations that came with it, these statistics were on the rise. For youth, they are not struggling with the unholy three—drugs, sex, and rock-n-roll. These will never be completely gone for an age group growing into independence. Their biggest struggles now are anxiety, depression and other mental health issues. So, what do we do with the distractions that lead us into distress and distrust?

We need to regain focus and clarity about what is really happening. We need to lift our heads and see beyond the cloud of competing information and the sources that demand our attention to the true source. Go to the Scriptures and find the verses that help you keep perspective. One such verse is found in the book of Colossians. "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory" (Col. 3:1-4).

This passage speaks to those who have been "raised up"—a reference to baptism (Rom. 6:3-5). "Keep seeking"—don't stop looking up and maintain our focus. "Set your mind on the things above"—a reminder that our thinking can get hijacked by the cares of this life. Set the dial, preprogram your mind to be focused on heavenly things. "For you have died"—I am not my own. My life is now in Christ and He is my life (Gal. 2:20). "When Christ is revealed"—not if, then we will be with Him in glory. Something to look forward to. This life with its cares and concerns is not the end. It's not heaven. This life isn't the reward. The rest of the chapter goes on to speak about an ordered life clothed in Christ.

Look to the Scriptures and find the passages that help you maintain focus. When we lose focus, it is easy for us to succumb to the distractions and wander off the path that is laid out before us. With prayer and the help of our brothers and sisters we need to keep ourselves from the distractions. ~Josh Blackmer

**I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world; and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.**

(John 16:25-28)

### 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

**If I cannot do great things,  
 I can do SMALL things in a great way.  
 (MLK)**

### 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



**Jonni (Crow) Marcotte's** had to have a pacemaker inserted after her open-heart surgery. Her husband said she might have been able to go home as early as Tuesday. Keep her in mind as she heals.

**Queca Woods** has written an autobiography, and wanted to share the details with her Christian friends  
 The Visitors Card by Queca Woods

This is a story about my life with God. I tell my story of growing up in a small town in Peru as a Catholic. My time spent in the Temples as I grew up and as an adult. Then a chance meeting with two ministers I learned how to study the bible on my own. Which lead me away from the Catholic faith and into the true church of Christ. I share how I relied on God through difficulties in life and praise Him for the joys of family and grandchildren.

You can find her book at most of the on-line bookstores, or by typing in the title in the search bar. Or find out more information by emailing thevisitorscard@yahoo.com

### 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)

### The Great Victory

"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful" (Revelation 17:14).

Do you ever struggle with getting discouraged because as you look at the world and the direction it is going, it seems like Satan is winning and God is losing? During such times, victory for those who follow Christ can seem so far away. Sometimes our Christian walk feels like we're in a football game down 99-0 with only 2 minutes left. At times, victory can feel so impossible to achieve.

It must be remembered that the book of Revelation is highly symbolic in nature (Revelation 1:1). It is filled with symbolic language by which God "signified" the things which would shortly take place and how these things would affect His people. There are many symbols describing the spiritual warfare that is taking place on the one side between God and His people, and on the other side Satan and those who are under his influence (cf. Revelation 13:3-4, 12-17).

Often, Satan's side appears to be winning. The beast, representing kingdoms under the influence of Satan, is even described temporarily overcoming the saints (Revelation 13:7-8). The great harlot, representing the great city (i.e., Rome) that ruled over the kings of the earth at that time, is described as being "drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" (Revelation 17:7, 18). Without a doubt there are times where it appears that Satan is winning and God is losing!

Throughout the book of Revelation there is the cry of God's people wanting victory and wanting to be avenged. The saints which had been slain for the word of God and the testimony to which they held cried out saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Revelation 6:10). Even the 24 elders and the angels in heaven cry out longing for victory when God comes to execute justice upon the wicked and to avenge His faithful followers (Revelation 11:16-18; 16:5-6). It is certainly appropriate for Christians to desire victory!

The book of Revelation describes God avenging His followers by first of all bringing judgment upon the wicked. This is described in part by the breaking of the seven seals of the scroll (Revelation 6:1-8:1), the sounding of the seven trumpets (Revelation 8:2-11:19), and the pouring of out of the seven bowls of God's wrath (Revelation 16:1-21). Then, as the opening passage above describes, Jesus leads His followers to victory as He makes war against the harlot and the beast which are under the influence of Satan (Revelation 17:1-18; 13:1-2). The beast and the false prophet are captured and cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20) where Satan will be cast as well (Revelation 20:2, 10). Following this we have the scene of the Judgment Day as the dead stand before God and are judged by the Word of God (Revelation 20:11-15). Victory is coming for God's people!

We are engaged in a great spiritual battle (cf. 2 Timothy 2:3-4). It is important for us to be properly equipped (Ephesians 6:10-20). I acknowledge that it can be discouraging to keep my morale up as it often appears that Satan and his allies are winning in this great warfare. To keep my morale up, I need to remember that God has assured me victory will happen. Paul wrote, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:57-58). Today, rejoice that in Christ we have victory!

**Happy New Year**