

Christ Is the Only Way

We tend to be serious and exclusive when dealing with serious matters. When you go to a physician for treatment, the doctor doesn't outline four or five arbitrary therapies, asking you to choose the one which "floats your boat." Rather, a physician seeks the greatest precision in addressing the patient's situation.

In the same way, but even more profoundly, Jesus claims to address the central elements of life, putting Himself forward to be the answer to our most profound needs.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden," Jesus invites, "and I will give you rest." This loving call invites us into a new way of life filled with blessings and with responsibilities. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me," is the Savior's commandment and promise, "for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

The power of the gospel is transformational. It moves us from the way of the world into the way of salvation in Christ. Receiving the blessings of Jesus as your Savior entails entering into a relationship with Jesus as your Lord.

In contrast to the transforming power of the gospel, much of today's popular religion is accommodating rather than confrontational. Worldly religions reinforce rather than challenge worldly behavior. In contrast to the world's message of indulgence, the church must continually reinforce the Lord's call to repentance.

~ Gregory Alan Tidwell

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:

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

Attendance 11/10 63

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 11/10 \$2722.00

November 17, 2019

Kennewick Church of Christ



Amazing What "The Truth" Teaches Us

More than 60 times in the New Testament the definite article "the" is found before the word "truth," to emphasize the single, absolute and distinctive nature of Divine truth. The plural form of "truths" is never found in Scripture, which again would seem to be God's way of emphasizing the single, absolute and distinctive nature of Divine truth. Let's examine what we can learn about "the truth" from the usage of that expression in the N.T.

Through the work and guidance of the Holy Spirit, "all the truth" has been given to us in Scripture (John 16:13). Knowing that we can trust it (for, it is "the truth") and knowing that we are not missing anything God intended for us to have (for, it is "ALL the truth"), we must come to Scripture with the utmost respect for how God expects us to respond.

First of all, consider that there are devastating ways in which man may respond to "the truth." Scripture affirms that "the truth" can be (but should not be) "suppressed" (Rom. 1:18), "exchanged for the lie" (Rom. 1:25), "rejected" (Rom. 2:8), "withheld" (1 Tim 6:5), "opposed" (2 Tim. 3:8), "strayed from" (2 Tim. 2:18; Jas. 5:19), "turned from" (2 Tim. 4:4; Tit. 1:14) and "lied against" (Jas. 3:14). May God help us to never treat "the truth" or act toward "the truth" in these ways.

Even more so, Scripture makes it very clear that "the truth" can and needs to dwell or abide in us (1 John 1:8; 2:4; 2 John 2; 3 John 3), in order that we might respond properly and as Divinely expected. "The truth" can be and needs to be (but, because of freewill, it doesn't have to be) "**heard**" (Col. 1:5), "**known**" (John 8:32; 1 Tim. 2:4; 1 Tim. 4:3; 2 Tim. 2:25; 3:7; Tit. 1:1; Heb. 10:26; 1 John 2:21; 2 John 1), "**believed**" (2 Thess. 2:12-13; 1 Tim. 4:3), "**loved**" (2 Thess. 2:10), "**obeyed**" (Gal. 3:1; 1 Pet. 1:22), "**practiced**" (John 3:21; 1 John 1:6), "**manifested**" (2 Cor. 4:2), "**lived**" (Gal. 2:14), "**told**" (John 8:45-46; John 16:7; Rom. 9:1; Gal. 5:7), "**spoken**" (2 Cor. 12:6; Eph. 4:15; 1 Tim. 2:7), "**established in**" (2 Pet. 1:12), "**stood in**" (John 8:44), "**walked in**" (3 John 3-4), "**turned back to**" (Jas. 5:19) and "**worked for**" (3 John 8).

When we respond properly to "the truth," Scripture reveals the power of the single, absolute and distinctive truth. It "**makes us free**" (John 8:32), "**sanctifies**" (John 17:17, 19), "**purifies**" (1 Pet. 1:22) and "**testifies**" of our faithfulness as we comply (3 John 12).

There is much for us to learn from and about "the truth." May we be reminded that apart from Jesus, who is "the truth" (John 14:6), there is no truth! His truth is not relative or multiple choice! It is absolute and powerful! ~ David Sproule

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world. Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. (John 18:36,37)

Keep These Dates in Mind	November Birthdays and Anniversaries	
11/03 First Sunday Potluck 11/09 Men's breakfast and fellowship 11/10 Open Congregational Meeting 5p 12/01 First Sunday Potluck 12/14 Men's breakfast and fellowship 12/15 Open Congregational Meeting 5p	<i>Pat Lindsay 11/1</i> <i>Sallie Winstead 11/7</i> <i>Mike & Cindy Manning 11/9</i>	<i>Lupe Mendoza 11/21</i> <i>Holly Preston 11/29</i> <i>Connie Stecker 11/30</i>

Today's Speaker
Danny Mendoza

Tonight's Video:
Has the Bible Been Corrupted (4 Of 9)
– Dave Miller

Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes Sunday am.–Exodus Wed pm – Fruits of the Spirit/Works of the Flesh	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Th. 10-11:30am
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Issues (ongoing): Karen McBurney, Shirley Childers, Marji Lindholm, Marilyn Davis, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington, Karen McBurney

Loretta Slettene has been moved to the Life Care Center in Richland. The address is 44 Goethals Drive, Richland, WA 99352, Room 102. Phone Number is (509)943-8021. Visitors are welcome as long as they or their family members aren't sick.

Barbara Goldsmith's new address is: 7841 S. Union Ave. Apt 2207, Tulsa, OK 74132. Home phone is 1-539-867-4216. Cell Phone is (509)579-4116 or (509)579-2719. She would love to hear from all of us here.

Jim Preston's surgery went well and hopefully he will be here with us today.

Hold on. Stay strong. Have faith. Trust God. Never lose hope.

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)

Petu 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)

Debtors to God

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors--not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God" (Romans 8:12-14).

Have you ever been in debt? When we think about being in debt, negative images enter our minds as we think about being constantly barraged with notices in the mail and phone calls harassing us to pay our debts. Being in debt is like a dark cloud hanging over you that seems to never go away.

However, as the opening passage above indicates, as Christians, we are told we are debtors. Why are we indebted? We are debtors to God because He paid for us a debt we were unable to pay ourselves. God paid the debt for our sins by sacrificing His own Son: "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8; cf. 1 Peter 1:18-19). What kind of creditor is God towards those who are indebted to Him?

For example, is God upset with us because He paid this debt for us? No, God understands the debt of our sin was too great for us to be able to pay. He paid this debt for us because He loves us! Even though we are greatly indebted to God, the apostle Paul expresses God's great, inseparable love for us: "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-39).

Furthermore, does God want us to continually feel like there is a dark cloud of gloom over us because we are indebted to Him because of our sin? Does He want us to continually feel guilty because of our past mistakes? Again, the answer is no. Although we are indebted to Him, God says there is NO CONDEMNATION for us in Christ: "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh" (Romans 8:1-3).

Finally, as our Creditor, does God call us up to harass us for not paying our bills? No, instead of calling us to remind us of how much we owe, the Holy Spirit actually pleads with God on our behalf by making intercession for us: "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26-27).

Yes, I am indebted to God because He paid the price for my sin which I could not. Today I rejoice that, unlike most creditors who want to charge me more interest and take more from me, God continues to give to me and has always has my interests at heart!

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-32). ~Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ