

Need A New Heart

The news was grim. My father had been having chest pains, so his doctor ordered a test to peer into his heart. The result? Blockage found in three arteries.

Triple-bypass surgery was scheduled for February 14. My dad, though anxious, saw that date as a hopeful sign: "I'm getting a new heart for Valentine's Day!" And he did! The surgery went perfectly, restoring life-giving blood flow to his struggling heart—his "new" heart.

My father's surgery reminded me that God offers us a new life as well. Because sin clogs our spiritual "arteries"—our capacity to connect with God—we need spiritual "surgery" to clear them.

That's what God promised His people in Ezekiel 36:26. He assured the Israelites, "I will give you a new heart. . . . I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." He also promised, "I will cleanse you from all your impurities" (v. 25) and "put my Spirit in you" (v. 27). To a people who'd lost hope, God promised a fresh start as the One who could renew their lives.

That promise was ultimately fulfilled through Jesus's death and resurrection. When we trust in Him, [Acts 2:37] we receive a new spiritual heart, one that's cleansed of our sin and despair. Filled with Christ's Spirit, our new heart beats with the spiritual lifeblood of God, that "we too may live a new life" (Romans 6:4).

~Adam Holz

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit. (Psalm 51:10)

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: kencoc@gmail.com

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

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

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

Attendance 03/31: 54

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 03/31 \$2971.10

April 06, 2019

Kennewick Church of Christ

Does God Meet My Expectations

"Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.' But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, 'Indeed, I said to myself, "He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy." Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?' So he turned and went away in a rage" (2 Kings 5:9-12).

During the reign of Jehoram, the son of Ahab, king of Israel (2 Kings 3:1-3), God did many wonderful miracles through his prophet Elisha. Elisha had become a great prophet of God after his mentor Elijah was taken up to heaven in a flaming chariot (2 Kings 2:11). One of the great miracles Elisha did through God's power was the healing of Naaman.

Naaman was commander of the Syrian army. He was a great and honorable man. The Lord worked through Naaman, even though Naaman did not realize this, to give victory to Syria. But, Naaman was a leper (2 Kings 5:1). A servant girl of Naaman, who was from the land of Israel, told Naaman's wife about Elisha and how she believed Elisha could heal her master of leprosy (2 Kings 5:2-4).

As the opening verses above indicate, Naaman goes to Elisha's house to be healed. He expects Elisha to come out, wave his hands, and call on the name of the Lord God. But Elisha doesn't do this. In fact, Elisha doesn't come out at all, but sends a messenger to Naaman. This messenger tells Naaman to go wash in the Jordan River seven times. The messenger tells Naaman if he will do this his flesh will be restored and he will be cleansed of his leprosy (2 Kings 5:9-10).

Naaman can't believe this! This is not what he expected. He can't believe he left Syria and came all the way down to Elisha's house just to be stood up by Elisha who doesn't even come out to meet him! He doesn't understand why he could not have washed in one of the rivers back home. He is filled with rage and gets ready to leave (2 Kings 5:11-12). However, his servants persuade him to do as the man of God has said. Naaman does so and is cleansed of his leprosy (2 Kings 5:13-14). Naaman humbles himself, thanks the man of God, strives to follow after the one true living God, and returns to land of Syria (2 Kings 5:15-19).

As I read this, I think, "Do I ever get upset because God doesn't meet my expectations of Him?" In reference to the things which the Bible says God has done (e.g. the virgin birth of Christ, creating the world in 7 days, etc.), do I find it challenging to accept what the Bible says when the "scientific community" rejects it? Regarding God's commandments, do I have difficulty following those commands of God (e.g. baptism or God's laws on marriage, divorce and remarriage) that don't "make sense" to me? When I pray, do I expect God to answer my prayers a certain way; and, when He doesn't answer my prayers my way, do I become disappointed with Him?

Living by faith means I trust fully in God that He will answer my prayers and direct my paths in a way that He knows is best for me. It means following His commandments when, like Naaman, they may make no sense to me. ~Susquehanna Church of Christ, Daily Devo

<i>Keep These Dates in Mind</i>	<i>April Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>		
03/31 Fifth Sunday Singing 04/07 First Sunday Potluck 04/13 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 04/14 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 04/19 Family Fun Night 6:00p 05/05 First Sunday Potluck 05/11 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 05/15 Soup Night 05/24 Family Night 6:00p	Avi Botts 4/3 Betty VanVorst 4/6 John Hopkins 4/8 Al & Pat Lindsay 4/12 LaVern & Sammie Engelke 4/18 Eunice Petross 4/25	<i>Dear Lord, give me the strength and courage to take the first step toward what you want me to do</i>	
	<i>Bible Studies</i>		
I am coming soon. Hold fast to what you have, so no one will take your Crown.	Adult Bible Classes Sunday am.–O.T. Beginning in Gen 12 Wed pm – Shadows of the church from the O.T	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class 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

Bob Childers went home to God on Tuesday April 2, 2019. Please Keep him and his family in your prayers during this difficult time. The viewing is 4-8, Ap. 18 at Einan's. The funeral is at 4-5pm, Ap 19 at Richland Church of Christ. Graveside service is 8-9am, Ap 20 at Einan's.

Betty Van Voorst has settled into her new abode. Her address is: 10547 North Reed Rd., Hayden, Idaho 83835. I'm sure she would appreciate cards and letters.

Many have asked for prayers for family members including **Shannon Mendoza (aunt), Karen McBurney (father), Amanda McCrickard (mother), Leland and Marilyn Davis (daughter)**. Please add them to your prayer list.

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)

Standing for the Truth

It has never been popular to stand for the Truth. Those who do so are always in the minority. The Lord described it plainly in Matthew 7:13-14. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

The vast and broad way of delusion and error is chosen by the masses every time. That is the way of least resistance-the way that is effortless and entertaining. The world loves it! At death, those who have chosen this way find out they've been deceived. The broad way leads to hurt, anguish and despair, not only after death, but along the way of life as well. A life of self-interest, a life of "me and mine," leads nowhere but the pit of destruction and eternal loss and damnation. Jesus said it very plainly, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

The life of a faithful Christian, a life directed by the inspired Word of God, a life of devotion and service to the creator of the universe is despised by the world because it exposes everything the world is and loves and stands for.

Notice the words of the apostle Paul. "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ. Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things)" (Phil 3:17-19). Paul exhorts the brethren (us) to "mark" those around us. To "mark" means to look toward, observe, call attention to. We are to "mark," i.e., notice, inspect, examine, a person's conduct and manner of life – we observe their actions. It is used in a good sense in verse 17 and in a bad manner in verses 18 and 19. In verse 17 we look toward faithful brethren that we might follow and imitate their good example (cf. 1 Cor 11:1). In verses 18-19 we look to the unfaithful, the wayward, the false teachers, the troublemakers, that we might refrain from and avoid their evil influence and example. The context determines whether our "marking" of others is so we might follow them or avoid them – imitate them or flee them.

Continuing with the text of Philippians 3 (verses 20, 21, and 4:1) tells us why we "mark" and "avoid" the enemies of the cross of Christ. It's because "...our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved" (Phil. 3:20-4:1).

In standing for the Truth, other passages also demand that we "mark" and "avoid" false doctrine and those who teach, practice and promote it. The Holy Spirit reveals the words of Rom. 16:17-18, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause division and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." Those who "cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine" of Christ are "enemies of the cross of Christ" (cf. Phil. 3:18-19). Oh, but many say, "brother ____ is so loving and nice. We all just need to get along and not stir up trouble." Loving the Truth and contending for the Faith is not stirring up trouble. The devil and his workers want us to believe it is, but it is one of his biggest lies. Holding to God's unchanging word is the most loving thing any of us could ever do. If we love our own soul and the souls of others, we will stay with God's word and not turn from it "to the right hand or to the left" (cf. Deut. 5:27-33).

~Garland M. Robinson (Excerpted)