

Hope

I don't know that there is any worse feeling than that of hopelessness. Left unchecked, it is soon followed by despair. These strong feelings present themselves those who are suicidal. Satan desires humans to die in sin so they may accompany him to the place prepared for him and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Satan does not want people to have hope, and that means that hope is a powerful tool of God for good. God is the God of hope (Romans 15:13). This verse also presents a connection between joy, peace, faith, and hope. Joy, peace, and faith are powerful tools of the Holy Spirit that enable the Christian to abound in hope. Having a life filled and overflowing with hope is a process that begins with faith, the foundation of joy and peace. It is "in believing" that God fills us with joy and peace. Faith comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17). Joy and peace are the natural results of believing (in an obedient way) God's word. The Ethiopian nobleman went on his way rejoicing after believing (in an obedient way) the word of God (Acts 8:39). Peace comes from the fact that we have Christ as our reconciler (Ephesians 2:14-22). It is a blessing of putting our trust in Christ. Philippians 3:6-7 emphasize the connection between trusting in God through prayer and receiving the peace of God that passes all understanding. When we have faith producing joy and peace, then we have wonderful hope in the One who can bring the abundant life both now and in eternity (John 10:10). ~Kevin Cauley

And he called the people to him and said to them, Hear and understand; it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person. Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" He answered, "Every plant that my Heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. Let them alone; They are blind guides, and if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us." And he said, "Are you still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? But what comes out of the proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. (Matt. 15 10-18)

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

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KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Living Without Partiality

We sing the words, "O to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer..." but we all struggle to be godly, to be like God. One attribute of God is that He treats all men alike, there is no partiality in Him. Absolutely no partiality! Read these words from both testaments that proclaim His impartiality. "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality" (Deut. 10:17). "For there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, no partiality" (2 Chron. 19:7). "Then Peter opened his mouth and said, 'In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality'" (Acts 10:34). "For there is no partiality with God" (Rom. 2:11).

James describes the real-life situation where the early church struggled to be like God. He described what can so easily happen when two distinctly separate individuals came to worship. One entered wearing a gold ring and fine clothing. The other was wearing shabby clothes. How did the church respond? They told the first to sit in the good place, and then told the second one to "...stand over there or sit down at my feet" (Jas. 2:2-3).

James then reminded his brethren the truth by asking a pointed question. "Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which He has promised to those who love Him" (Jas. 2:5)? His conclusion? "If you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors" (Jas. 2:9).

Hear these words from the Holy Spirit of God. "But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality" (Col. 3:25). Paul called the Father, the Lord, and the elect angels as witnesses to encourage Christians "...to observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality" (1 Tim. 5:21). Peter urged those who receive his epistle to live as pilgrims and sojourners and call upon God "...who without partiality judges according to each one's works" (1 Pet. 1:17).

Think of how these words apply to evangelism and the growth of the kingdom. Our world honors those who are educated, who have careers, who are "nice" people. If we focus on these as we seek to reach out to the lost, we are not being like that blessed Redeemer we sing about. Jesus chose "uneducated and ignorant and untrained men" (Acts 4:13), common laborers who made their living by fishing, a despised tax collector, and one who was a terrorist, a Zealot (Acts 1:13); and they were the foundation on which the church was built. As we seek to take the gospel to the lost world, do we show partiality? Christ does not just invite "nice" people to come to Him but those whose lives are filled with trouble (Matt. 11:28). Think about this! ~Dan Jenkins

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" (Romans 15:13).

Keep These Dates in Mind

Nov 11/7 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship
 11/09 - Study of Denominations 7:00p
 11/18 - Study of Denominations 7:00p
 11/23 - Study of Denominations 7:00p
 12/02 - Study of Denominations 7:00p

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Pat Lindsay 11/1
 Beverly Downing 11/2
 Andre Downing 11/6
 Sallie Winstead 11/7
 Gary & Linda Bills 11/10
 Holly Preston 11/29
 Connie Stecker 11/30

**Teach me to do
 your will,
 for you are
 my God**
 (Psalm 143:10a)

Those with ongoing health issues:

Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Jim Preston

Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes
 Sunday a – 2 Samuel
 Wed p – Gospel of John

Young Adults class-
 Teen Room (led by Danny Mendoza)

Ladies Class
 (Contact Sandi Gray for information)

IN OUR PRAYERS

Let us keep in mind all those of whom we know are struggling spiritually, who will be travelling in the next few weeks, who are struggling financially and those who have to make decisions on matters of conscience during this time of mandated compliance. May God keep them safe from harm and guide their decisions.



I wonder if the church would have ever been established if the early Christians had the same attitude about pain and suffering as some of us do today?

Komedy Korner

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 - If you are in need of food assistance, please contact one of the men of the congregation and they will be able to help you with this need.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

A Convenient Time?

"And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, 'Go away for now; when I have a convenient time, I will call for you'" (Acts 24:24-25).

Do you ever struggle with procrastination? There are some things which don't hurt to procrastinate over such as starting a home building project or reading a particular book, but there are other things that are not good to procrastinate over such as finding a job or matters which concern our souls.

Following Paul's return from his third missionary journey, Paul goes to Jerusalem and enters the temple (Acts 21:15-26). While he is in there some Jews from Asia stir up the crowd, lay hands on him, and beat him as they sought to kill him (Acts 21:27-32). He is rescued by some soldiers, questioned, and then eventually sent to the governor Felix (Acts 21:33-23:35).

As Paul is brought before Felix, Ananias the high priest came with some of the Jewish elders and made accusations against Paul (Acts 24:1-9). Then Paul gives his own defense and as he shares with Felix his hope in the resurrection of the dead made possible through Jesus Christ (Acts 24:15-16, 21). Without rendering a verdict Felix adjourns the proceedings (Acts 24:22). Later, Felix and his wife Drusilla send for Paul to hear from him more concerning the faith in Christ (Acts 24:24).

Paul shares with him his hope in Jesus Christ and the good news of the Gospel. As he does so, Paul *"reasoned about, self-control, and the judgment to come"* (Acts 24:25). When Felix contemplates what Paul has to say, he is afraid (Acts 24:25). Perhaps, in listening to Paul, Felix realized he was not ready for the judgment to come. What does Felix do? Does he obey the gospel so that his fears may be relieved, and he may go on rejoicing in his salvation (cf. Acts 8:39)?

Sadly, Felix procrastinates. He tells Paul, *"Go away for now; when I have a convenient time, I will call for you"* (Acts 24:25). In fact, for 2 more years Felix will continue to send for Paul and converse with him (Acts 24:26-27), but as far as we know he never obeys the gospel and goes to his grave unprepared for the judgment to come, afraid, and never realizing the joy of salvation in Christ.

As we consider this account of Paul before Felix, we should each ask ourselves, "Are there spiritual matters in my life about which I procrastinate?" For example, for some of you reading this, perhaps you have procrastinated about making the decision to obey the gospel of Christ? For others of you, have you put off restoring a relationship with a brother or sister in Christ who has hurt you by not confronting them and forgiving them (cf. Matthew 18:15-17; Ephesians 4:32)? Moreover, there still may be those reading this, who have put off discovering their unique ministry where they can serve others and help build up church, the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:16).

Why do we put off doing these things? While there are some matters such as putting off going shopping for a gift or starting an exercise program which may not hurt us too much, spiritual procrastination is deadly to our souls. It hurts our relationship with God because it puts off doing those things which draw us closer to God.

~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Church of Christ