

Thank God for Challenges!

You can call them whatever you want, but they are part of our lives and the life of the church. Some view them as grave problems. Others see them as insurmountable obstacles, certain defeats, or reasons to give up, but when viewed through the eyes of faith they are simply challenges on the road to heaven.

Thank God for challenges because they teach us to rely on Him. Every reader has one of the “insurmountable obstacles” in his life now or one which will soon be there. We never want them, but they are simply part of life. We need to have an appreciation for them because they help us realize just how weak we are. If we were stronger, we could “fix” them and they would cease to be problems. However, the truth is that such trials force us to admit our weakness and turn to God. Perhaps Paul said it best, “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor. 12:10). That last phrase sums it up best—when I am weak, then I am strong.

Thank God for challenges for they strengthen our souls. The strongest oak is not the one which is nurtured in a greenhouse environment, but one that grows in the open where it battles against the storms around it. The same is true of Christians and the “storms” in their lives. Here is the way God describes trials, “The testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:3-4). The way to full maturity (perfection and completion) is to travel the road of adversity. ~Dan Jenkins

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:

December 15, 2019

Kennewick Church of Christ

A Time to be Silent and a Time to Speak

According to Solomon, there is a time for everything (Eccl. 3:7). When to speak and when to remain silent is an assignment not easily mastered.

“Silence is golden” is an expression pre-dating the 1964 release of a song recorded by Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. The expression goes back at least as far as the 1848 proverb: “Speech is silver and silence is golden.” Simply put, this means that there are things that should not be repeated and, in such matters, silence is of great value. Centuries earlier, Solomon said that the one “who repeats a matter separates intimate friends” (Prov. 17:9). So, there is a time to remain silent. We do not have an obligation to share everything we know with others. In fact, talebearing is a sin that hurts people (Prov. 11:13; 18:8). It fuels contention and kindles strife (Prov. 26:20-21). Paul tells us to speak only such words as are “good for edification according to the need of the moment...” (Eph. 4:29). The matter is so serious that we are told not even to associate with someone who engages in talebearing (Prov. 20:19).

In Scripture, silence is often an indicator of faith in God. In an expression of trust, David writes, “My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation” (Ps. 62:1). This reminds us of Moses’ declaration of faith in the presence of the recently delivered children of Israel who were pinned between the Red Sea and the horses and chariots of Pharaoh. He said, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent” (Ex. 14:13-14). Silently waiting for deliverance, rather than rebelling and complaining as the people of Israel had been doing (vss. 11-12), shows trust in the Lord.

This may shed light on our Lord’s silence before His tormentors. Jesus kept silent (Mt. 26:63). He did not answer (Mt. 27:12, 14; Jn. 19:9; Mk. 15:5; Lk. 23:9). In this, Jesus fulfilled the words of the prophet who said, “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth” (Isa. 53:7). In His silence, Jesus was “entrusting Himself” to the will of the Father (1 Pet. 2:23). However, when called upon to reveal His true identity, Jesus did not shrink away in cowardly silence but boldly made the good confession, not only before the Council but also before Pilate (Mt. 26:64; 1 Tim. 6:13). Similarly, we must “sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks [us] to give an account for the hope that is in [us], yet with gentleness and reverence...” (1 Pet. 3:15). Indeed, there is a time to speak and a time to be silent. We will be judged accordingly (Mt. 12:36-37). ~Glen Elliott

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

Attendance 12/07 60

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 12/07 \$3323.00

How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. (Matt. 12:34-37)

Keep These Dates in Mind	December Birthdays and Anniversaries	
12/01 First Sunday Potluck 12/14 Men's breakfast and fellowship 12/15 Open Congregational Meeting 5p 12/29 Kennewick hosting the 5 th Sunday singing 01/05 First Sunday Potluck 01/11 Men's breakfast and fellowship 01/12 Open Congregational Meeting 5p	Mark Minor 12/4 Sandi Gray 12/14 Bill & Linda Lafferty 12/24	<i>For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven</i>
Bible Studies		

Today's Speaker Joe Botts Tonight's Video: Has the Bible Been Corrupted (8 Of 9) – Dave Miller	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 Friday Bible Class Friday 3:00pm
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Issues (ongoing): Karen McBurney, Shirley Childers, Marji Lindholm, Marilyn Davis, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington, Karen McBurney

Shirley Childers and **Loretta Slettene** are both in residential care homes. Both would appreciate cards and visits.

Pansy Caywood had surgery this week for a blood clot in her arm. The surgery went well.

Helen Pierce was in Trios ER this week. They did some tests and sent her home. She has had the flu and has trouble with her breathing.

The **Ladies Bible Class** and the **Friday Bible Class** will not meet again until January 9th and 10th, 2010 respectively. If anyone has questions, contact Mary Beth Walker concerning the ladies' class and Al or Pat Lindsay for the Friday Bible class.

All generations invited: Holiday party, **Friday, December 20**, at the building. Fun, Food and Fellowship



In Our Prayers

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)

Motivated by Love

Spiritual motivation is of paramount importance in the life of a Christian. If our motivation is nonexistent or is misplaced, we may lose our zeal to serve God and those in need around us. Losing sight of what should motivate us may well be a major reason Christians leave the faith entirely or become inactive and quit working for the Lord. Therefore, reflecting on what can and should motivate us as Christians is a wise exercise that may renew our commitment to serve the almighty God and allow us to show His love to those around us.

Our source for this motivation, of course, is found in the Word of God. When we drink deeply from the verses that describe His love and concern for us along with those that illustrate our relationship with Him and His Son, our zeal can be renewed in an extraordinary way. Go all the way to the front of your Bible, and you will begin to see the relationship God has with all mankind. Genesis 1:26-27 states: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image.' ... So God created man in His own image" (NKJV).

You are made in the image of God. Were we to have no more Bible than the first 27 verses of Genesis, we would have ample evidence that God has a vested interest in every person who has or ever will walk this earth. For the Christian, however, the relationship is infinitely stronger. Recall the inspired words of the apostle Peter in 1 Peter 3:12: "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers."

Those are awesome, powerful words that show God's love and concern for His followers. God wants to hear from us (Philippians 4:6-7) and tells us to speak to Him with confidence, knowing – not hoping, mind you – that among billions of people, His eyes and ears are on you and me. Indeed, not only is He open to hear our prayers, but He wants, in fact desires, to hear from us. That is wonderful – knowing that with the billions of God-created individuals on earth, God wants and promises to hear the prayers of His people.

One of the many great themes in the Bible is that God loves mankind and is concerned and moved by those who show their love to Him in return. You personally are valuable in God's eyes. Knowing this value and being assured of it from God's Word should make us overwhelmed with joy and love for our Father in heaven. It should provide motivation to serve Him and to spread His message of love to those around us.

God gives us plenty of other pictures of His love that provide further motivation to remain faithful in serving Him and others. For instance, Paul told our brethren in Rome these words in Romans 5:8, which show the magnificent love of God toward all men and especially toward Christians: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

God made the first move, if you will. He did not send His Son to the cross just for those who would believe in Him. His Son died for the entire world (John 3:16), and anyone anywhere can reap the benefits of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection simply by accessing His blood through faith, repentance and baptism. Remembering that sacrifice often, meditating upon it, and considering the magnitude of the Father's and the Son's love for us is a great motivation. What a mighty God and Father is in heaven, and what a privilege it is to serve Him!

That would be enough, wouldn't it? Here we have a loving Father and a loving Son in Christ Jesus who made the ultimate sacrifice to save us from the penalty of our sins (Romans 6:23), yet there is more to motivate us. Jesus said in John 14:2-3: "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

The same Jesus Christ who hung upon a cross for six hours in pain and agony and who was mocked, spit upon and ridiculed is now preparing a place for you and me in heaven; we have the opportunity to be with Him for an eternity. Is that not wonderful? Can we even begin to fathom the depth of love that God and Jesus have for us?

That love, when reflected upon, motivates us to press on, to never give up, and to serve the almighty God for all our days upon this earth. ~Chad Stafko