

The King Became Poor

Because of God's love and our desperate need for salvation from sin, Jesus left the glories and splendor of Heaven to come to this earth to live as a man and then to go to the cross to die for the sins of this world. "Have this mind among yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." This passage beautifully describes what He gave up in order to save us. He became poor, so that we could be "rich" – rich with all of the spiritual blessings that are found in Him, blessings such as forgiveness from sin, peace that surpasses all understanding, and the hope of eternal life in a beautiful place called Heaven.

God will save and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10) and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

Jesus became "poor" and suffered and died so that you could become "rich" with spiritual, eternal blessings. He's the Great Benefactor, and you can be the recipient of His blessings if you will only accept them on His terms. ~David A. Sargent

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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Minister:

Bill Gregory (360)710-0449

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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 05/09: 44

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution: 05/09: \$2840.10

May 16, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



You Must Be Circumcised

The mention of circumcision instantly draws Bible students to the old Testament. Circumcision was an important element of a covenant relationship with God.

God promised to multiply Abraham, make him father of many nations and give his descendants land (Genesis 17:1-8). The Almighty declared, "Every male child among you shall be circumcised; and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you" (Genesis 17:10-11).

God made it clear that the uncircumcised male would not remain in a covenant relationship with Him. "And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant" (Genesis 17:14). Those who wandered in the wilderness did not circumcise their boys, and so God commanded they do so as they prepared to enter the promised land (Joshua 5:2).

Circumcision was only effective if one kept the Law perfectly. No Jew, outside of our Lord, ever did that. They were thus lawbreakers, and their circumcision was made ineffective.

Christians are now God's circumcision (Philippians 3:3), but our circumcision is of the heart. "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God" (Romans 2:28-29).

Christians receive the cutting off of the sins of the flesh in baptism. "In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead" (Colossians 2:11-12).

Anyone who would enjoy the blessings of Christ's covenant must be circumcised in baptism. Failing to be baptized will result in being cut off from Heaven. ~Gary C. Hampton

In the Old Testament, the prophet Elijah sought to do right, and was persecuted by a ruling woman named Jezebel. In the New Testament, John the Baptist stood firm about the truth of certain things and was hated by a king's wife. Herodias plotted to have John the Baptist killed. She had her daughter perform lustily in front of a bunch of drunken men, including the king, and tricked the king into ordering that John be killed (Mark 6:14-29). Sometimes, standing for truth will get one in a lot of trouble. Romans 1:18 speaks of those groups of people who "suppress the truth in unrighteousness." So what is a fellow to do? If he knows truth –and most people, including rules go against it –is he to capitulate [surrender] or hold to the truth? Prov.23:23 admonishes, "Buy the truth and do not sell it..." ~Robson's Rubies

Keep These Dates in Mind	May Birthdays and Anniversaries		
May 2 - Sunday, regularly scheduled services, NO POTLUCK, plus 5:00 brainstorming session May 5 - Wednesday, first day of the lectureship May 6, 7, 8 - Thursday, Friday and Saturday, lectureship continues May 9 - last day of lectureship, including POTLUCK May 13 - Thursday, homeschool testing at the church building	Mike Manning 5/1 Lynette Jones 5/4 Gerald Funnell 5/5 Bill Lafferty 5/8 Tom Gritzan 5/17 Katie Botts 5/18 Mary Hill 5/21 Kurtis Rau 5/26	Bible Studies	
	Adult Bible Classes Sunday a - Judges Sunday p - Romans Wed p - John	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 Michael Stimson, Jim Preston			



Marilyn Davis went home to God on Tuesday May 11, 2021. Please keep Leland and the family in your prayers.

Lance and Emily were baptized into Christ on Sunday night. They are friends of Joe and Katie Botts. Please welcome them into our congregation as they begin their new life in Christ.

In Our Prayers The Gospel seminar was successful and for those who attended, we heard wonderful gospel lessons and were encouraged to go about doing good and preaching the word to the lost of this world.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the words of his power. (Hebrews 1:1-3a)

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)

Persecution (and the lack thereof)

In a Bible class recently, we discussed Romans 8:17, "and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." The point was well made that all of these wonderful adjectives (e.g., heirs, heirs of God, joint heirs) were conditional on us suffering with Him.

Then, we spent a few minutes in class discussing persecution. A slide was presented that revealed Christian persecution in areas like northern Africa and many communist countries. The point was made that we don't suffer much in America, and class members gave possible reasons why (i.e., the founding fathers upheld many Christian principles, etc.). After the discussion, we moved on to verses 18 and following, but my mind stayed on verse 17.

The passage says, "if indeed we suffer with Him," but the reality is in America we try really hard to avoid suffering. The honest truth is we don't like to get out of our comfort zones, and so, we plan programs and activities that don't require us to have hard conversations with the lost. The only time we really speak up is when people who share our beliefs and worldviews surround us. Many congregations spend a great deal of their annual budget on "internal" programs so that members don't feel like they have to go out into the community and confront those who are lost. So, is the reason we are not suffering or being persecuted because we have chosen an easier path?

Over and over, the Bible talks about Christians being persecuted and suffering. For instance, 2 Timothy 3:12 says, "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." Jesus spoke of persecution in His famous Sermon on the Mount. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10).

Spend a few minutes looking over passages like: 1 Peter 3:14; Romans 12:14; Romans 17-21; John 15:18-19; Matthew 5:44; Acts 14:22; John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 4:8-12; James 1:2-3.

"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet, if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter." (1 Peter 4:12-15).

It is possible the reason we don't suffer persecution is because we do not speak up? Is it possible we have become such friends with the world that it does not hate us for our religious beliefs? Is it possible that we have stopped identifying sin to those with whom we come in contact? Is it possible that we don't suffer because we avoid the hard conversations about the consequences of sin? Is it possible that we don't suffer persecution because our pulpits no longer speak out strongly on judgment and hell, but rather, they continuously proclaim love and grace? Is it possible that we aren't persecuted because we expect the lost to come to us rather than we going out as we have been commanded?

I know that one day every knee will bow down and acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. I pray that on that occasion, we don't find ourselves outside the body of Christ because we desired comfort over persecution. ~Brad Harrub