

Are You Thankful for the Church?

In the letters to the churches of Rome, Corinth, Colossi and Philippi, the Apostle Paul expressed his deep gratitude for those congregations. He was thankful for their faithfulness, fellowship and spiritual growth. Even though these groups of Christians struggled with temptation and sin, Paul appreciated his relationship with the church. Can we say the same about ourselves? Are we thankful for the church? If so, how do we express our appreciation?

Here are a few ways and reasons we should be eternally grateful for this great institution:

- Jesus Christ Died for the Church - Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:24-25
- The Benefit of a Spiritual Family – Eph. 3:14-15 ☐ Love for One Another is Found in the Church – 1 Peter 1:22
- Forgiveness is Found in Church Fellowship – 1 John 1:7
- Gratitude Shown by Consistent Fellowship - Acts 2:42
- Physical Needs are Met Thru the Church - Acts 4:34
- Peace and Harmony is Found in the Church - Rom. 15:5
- One Can be Worry-Free in the Church – Phil. 4:6-7
- Our Thankfulness is Shown by Giving – 2 Cor. 9:6-8
- Spiritual Support is Found in the Church – James 5:13-16
- Good Works Come from the Church – Eph. 2:10
- Christ is the Savior of the Church – Eph. 5:23

~ Jay Launius

No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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:

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Minister:

June 13, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Has Satan Robbed Us of Our Joy?

“Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing” (Psa. 100:1-2). These are strange words when one considers all the trials David faced. They began at the slaying of Goliath, continued for years as a fugitive from the jealous wrath of King Saul and then the rebellion led by his son after he became king. Joyful shouts? Serving with gladness? Singing in His presence? How can one possibly find joy and gladness in the midst of all of this adversity?

Yet David did. Look at the thoughts which follow the opening words of this psalm. As you think about them, make application as to how you can find true joy in the midst of all that has happened to us in the midst of dealing with the threat of covid.

True joy comes from exalting Lord as God. “Know that the Lord, He is God.” While we may have become disheartened over the months because we have had little control in most aspects of our lives, one eternal truth has not changed. Our Father is greater than any trial we face. How do we face our Goliaths? A shepherd boy stood before a man almost twice his size and proclaimed, “I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts....This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand....For the battle is the Lord’s and He will give you into our hands” (1 Sam. 17:45-47). Knowing that God is in charge will always result in our victory, and our response will be the coming into His presence with joyful singing.

True joy comes from realizing He has made us. Continue reading that psalm. “It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves.” Whenever we think that our happiness and fulfillment come from our dealing with adversity, we are doomed to failure. He is the Creator, and we are the created ones. We are not in charge and looking inward will never bring happiness and fulfillment. David destroyed the giant but not from his own skills as a warrior. Those who were warriors in that day cowered in fear of the battle. David knew that the Creator was the One who fought against his enemy. The result is joyful praise and thanksgiving.

True joy comes from coming before God and praising Him. Look carefully at David’s words. We must make joyful noise to the Lord; come before His presence with singing; enter into His gates with thanksgiving; enter into His courts with praise; be thankful and bless His name. Covid has robbed us of assembling over the past several months, and we have been robbed of coming into His presence and His courts and finding the joy which comes from singing and praising His name as we once did.

We must not let Satan rob us of true joy! ~ Dan Jenkins

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:35-36)

Keep These Dates in Mind**June Birthdays and Anniversaries**

June 6 – Potluck

Leland Davis 6/1
Henry & Mary Beth Walker 6/2
Fran Henniger 6/7
Rachel Melder 6/8
Phyllis Hubbard 6/10
Jack & Wanda Danley 6/15
Craig Bolt 6/15
Maurice Bunker 6/15Ken & Sallie Winstead 6/17
Thelma Gritzan 6/19
Bill & Fran Gregory 6/19
Sue Pierce 6/26
Jenifer Mooney 6/28
Karen McBurney 6/30
Shannon Mendoza 6/30**Bible Studies****Adult Bible Classes**Sunday a – 1 Samuel
Sunday p - Romans
Wed p – The Church
(5-week study)**Young Adults class-
Teen Room** (led by
Danny Mendoza)**Ladies Class**(Contact Sandi
Gray for
information)

Please let Lynette Jones know about upcoming events or prayer request so she can include them in the bulletin.

Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce Michael Stimson, Jim Preston**A Time of Renewal**

We are in full swing of the spring season! The trees, plants and flowers are green and colorful. Nature has renewed itself once again. This season can bring to one's' mind ideas of personal renewal, a time to start fresh and new. As believers we have the great blessing of renewal in times of spiritual difficulty or weakness. When we first come to Christ the scriptures say that we put off the old man (person) and are renewed in the spirit of our mind (Ephesians 4: 22-24) but it doesn't stop there. We'll still struggle with worldly desires and thoughts but have the continued opportunity to avoid conforming to this world but rather being transformed by the renewing our mind (Romans 12:2). Living the life of a Christian can be overwhelming at times, especially when combined with the physical and mental stresses of everyday life. But our confidence can be found in the following verse. "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day." (2 Corinthians 4:16). Just as the tree puts out new leaves, the birds build new nest and the grass grows green again, we have the great blessing of spiritual renewal! ~ Jay Launius

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)

Following Close Behind God

Do you ever feel far away from God? I know many times in my own life I have become so wrapped up in the daily affairs of my physical life that it seems to crowd out my ability to think about my relationship with God and the needs of my spiritual life. When this happens, I feel distant from God.

As I study the life of David, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), I am amazed at his ability to continue to remain closely connected with God even in the midst of tremendous trials. In the title of Psalm 63, we read "A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah". David probably wrote this psalm either during the period when King Saul was pursuing his life and David had fled to the wilderness of Judah to escape (1 Samuel 23:14-15) or possibly during the rebellion of his son Absalom when he had fled to the wilderness to escape (2 Samuel 15:23). Be that as it may, in this psalm David mentions his pursuers: "But those who seek my life, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals" (Psalm 63:9-10). In this psalm, David calls upon God to help in the midst of this storm in which he finds himself.

Even though he is running for his life, as David calls upon God he says, "O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So, I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory" (Psalm 68:1-2). David's greatest longing was not for deliverance from his enemies. His greatest longing was seeking after God. David's heart dwelt upon God's wonderful attributes, such as His lovingkindness, instead of focusing on the hatred of his enemies: "Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You" (Psalm 68:3).

David desire to pursue after God was greater than his enemies' determination to pursue after him. As a result of his relentless pursuit of God, David would find a satisfaction that few in life find when facing such adversity as what confronted him: "Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips" (Psalm 68:4-5).

As the opening verses above show, David describes how he pursued God. He meditated upon God day and night. This involved studying God's Word, praying, focusing his thoughts upon positive attributes of God, and recalling how God had already worked in his life. In spite of the dangers confronting him, David took time to think on God because he realized this was essential for his soul.

If you are like me, too often we let the "rat race" of life distract us. We become weighed down with the cares of the world and our souls feel starved. We allow the daily trials of life to fill our hearts and minds which results in each of us saying something like, "I have no time to study God's Word or to pray". Today, I will follow the example of David and pursue God as a man who is thirsty in a desert pursues water. Because I want my soul to be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, I will study God's Word, take time to pray, and meditate on God and how He has worked in my life. My soul will follow close behind God this day!

"My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved" (Psalm 62:5-6).

~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Church of Christ