

## He Made Reconciliation

Hebrews 2:17 says that Jesus was a faithful High Priest in that He made reconciliation for the sins of the people. The word "reconciliation" (KJV) is a big word that means "to appease." The Greek word is "hilaskomai." It refers to the role of offering atonement and making peace.

All mankind has sinned. Every person commits sin. Sin separates man from God. There is no peace between God and a sinner. However, Christ made that peace possible. He made reconciliation. He offered the atonement sacrifice. What did He offer? He offered Himself. He was the atonement sacrifice. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 and Romans 5:11. Both of these Scriptures tell us Jesus is our atonement. He is also the One Who offered the atonement.

First John 2:2 and 1 John 4:10 say He is our "propitiation." That is another big word. It means "atonement sacrifice." It comes from the Greek word "hilasmos." Jesus was the Sacrifice, and He was the One Who sacrificed. He was a Great High Priest who offered Himself so that there could be peace between man and God.

Study your Bible. Learn all about our High Priest and Reconciler. ~Mark McWhorter

## Our Unchanging God

For I am the Lord, I do not change" (Malachi 3:6). We serve an unchanging God.

We live in a society today that has adopted a philosophy of political correctness, making whatever changes it has to in order to please as many as possible. In such a world of changes, it is good to know that we have a God who does not change. Let's look at some ways in which He does not change.

- **God is Unchanging in His Attributes** – Righteousness, power, benevolence and wisdom.
- **God is Unchanging in His Attitude** – toward sin, toward the sinner, toward His faithful people
- **God is Unchanging in His Demands** – for submission, for love and loyalty, for character, for service.
- **God is Unchanging in Not Showing Respect of Persons** – He saves those who obey Him, but He condemns those who fail or refuse to obey (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

Are you prepared to meet this unchanging God?

~Ernest S. Underwood

## Kennewick Church of Christ

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336  
509-783-4013

Website: [www.Kennewickcoc.com](http://www.Kennewickcoc.com)

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: [kenncoc@gmail.com](mailto:kenncoc@gmail.com)

### 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](mailto:ccbotts@hotmail.com)

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; [Vern.engelke@gmail.com](mailto:Vern.engelke@gmail.com)

### Minister:

Attendance 06/20: 39 | Budget \$2484.00 | Contribution: 06/20: \$1585.00

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KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



## The Beginning of Wisdom

Proverbs 1:7 says, "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*" This is one of my favorite proverbs because not only does it tell us about the majesty of God but also of the great value in learning. There are many who would seek to replace the wisdom of the Word of God with the ignorance of the prideful. These people would seek to replace God as the supreme being with themselves or another lesser, imagined power. These people are described as fools in Psalm 14:1.

In the Holy Scriptures, we find the true source of knowledge: our mighty God. The "fear" mentioned in the verse is not the kind of which we immediately think in English, which is a "terror." Rather, as the Pulpit Commentary says of "terror" here, it means "to fear or reverence," which is a "holy fear." It is a fear by which we are afraid to offend God...that fear of Jehovah which is elsewhere described as "to hate evil" (Proverbs 8:13). This fear or fear to offend God is the beginning of true wisdom, for if we keep God and His will, and use that as our motivation, we will surely prosper in our lives.

God is the source of all reality and, therefore, of all that is good and all that we should desire to know. However, we are told of those who don't want to know the path of a God-centered knowledge. A great many people have decided that, for whatever reason, to hate God is the beginning of wisdom. Atheism has little to offer its believer except that of a moral-free environment, in which a person can indulge in whatever he or she wants without fear of consequences. In this respect, it sounds very much like old-fashioned idolatry where worshipers made gods to suit their own desires. This kind of belief offers its follower only a cold grave and a meaningless universe, which they think comes from nothing, becomes nothing and offers only sorrow.

It's no wonder the Holy Bible describes those who adhere to such godless doctrines as fools. The Proverbs are full of wise sayings and deep thoughts. They encourage us and admonish us, and in Proverbs 1, we learn where to begin, by acknowledging the simple truth God is. ~George McMulty

**If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

**Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality; impurity; passion; evil desire; and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger; wrath; malice; slander and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of the creator. (Colossians 3:1-10)**

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

July 4 – Potluck

Kael Botts 7/3  
Danny & Shannon Mendoza 7/22  
Jim & Holly Preston 7/22  
Sarah Mendoza 7/28  
Ila Stephens 7/28*Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God." For God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. (Ja. 1:13-14)***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, prayer requests or birthdays she hasn't included 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**In Our  
Prayers****Sandi Gray** is doing well after her cataract surgeries and is on her last week of drops.**Queca Woods** two sisters from Peru and one from Houston are visiting this week**Fran Henniger** is in Tennessee visiting family. David Henniger is having an eye problem that is potentially serious and is waiting to see an ophthalmologist.**Larry Marquez** (Wanda Danley's brother) seems to be slowly improving. Her mother is still dealing with cancer.**Willis Lindholm** (Wanda Danley's brother-in-law) has been undergoing radiation treatments for his cancer, which leave him very tired. He will be undergoing shoulder surgery on Monday.Continue to remember **Lupe and Tom Mendoza** as they deal with her cancer.**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)

**Good Enough**

In the course of a religious discussion, it's not uncommon to hear someone say, "I'm good enough. I'm just as good as" this person or that person. In one's mind, such is justification for one's lifestyle, that if God is pleased with this person, then surely, He is pleased with me. Sometimes, one will offer a qualification to it, as well. For example, people may say, "I'm good enough because I believe in God." Yet, believing in God isn't enough by itself. James wrote, "You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder" (James 2:19). While faith is essential to a relationship with God, a faith that doesn't respond in obedience isn't good enough.

Others may say, "I'm good enough, because I have served God in the past." We know there is no way we can earn our salvation through our own merit. Jesus told the parable of an unworthy slave in Luke 17:7-10 and concluded, "So you too, when you do all things which are commanded you say, 'we are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'" While past deeds are commendable, the past alone isn't good enough, as life in Christ is always in the present. We must obey today to please the Lord. "Brethren I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

One may also say, "I'm good enough because I don't do all the bad things other people do." It's easy to compare ourselves with those we believe to be worse than we are, but no doubt there are others who could do the same with us. Everyone has a sin problem (Romans 3:23), and any sin in which a person persists will condemn him or her before God. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Just because one's sin list is different than another person's sin list doesn't make one good enough before God.

The truth of the matter is we're not good enough. We can concur with Isaiah who wrote, "For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away" (Isaiah 64:6). We need God's grace and the cleansing of Christ's blood to stand acceptable before God. This doesn't nullify living a righteous life, but they are what enables us to do so. John said, "But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7). Our walk in the light is essential for the blood of Jesus to continue cleansing us from all sin.

In reality, the child of God should say, "I'm not good enough, but God loves me, and with Christ working in my life, I can grow and mature each day. I can please Him." This is what Paul believed about himself, about what God was doing in him, though he called himself the foremost of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). "For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me" (1 Corinthians 15:9-10). May we yield our lives to God and live each day in His will for us, so that through Jesus Christ, He will consider us good enough for eternal life. "We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning; but He who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him" (1 John 5:18). ~ Robert Johnson