

I Give Up

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” (James 4:7–8)

For Christians to have a right relationship with God they may have to get to the point in life where they say, “I give up!”. This is not a declaration of quitting but rather admitting that they have tried to face life’s challenges on their own terms instead of submitting to the Lord and letting Him help them get through life. The above passage simply states, “submit to God” which means we should give up and give in, allowing God to control every aspect of our lives. I know that’s a tall order, however when we base our decisions upon God’s instruction and wisdom life can indeed be less frustrating. Now take a look at the next part of the passage. Resisting Satan is easier said than done because he’ll use every means possible to make us fail in both our physical and spiritual lives. But God assures us here that if we stand up and stand strong the old devil will leave us alone for a while. Finally, we’re told to “draw near to God”. We get close to God through Jesus Christ and when we trust and depend on the Lord to help us He will be right by our side. We’re never promised that life will be easy, what we are promised is we’ll be able to handle whatever life throws us because we have the peace that passes understanding in our hearts (Phil. 4:7) and our Father will never leave us or forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5) ~ Jay Lanus, Maud church of Christ

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you –unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for your sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

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

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Minister:

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KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



He Knew No Sin, But Why?

There are some amazing things that we read about Jesus in the Bible. It is absolutely amazing to read about His fulfillment of over 300 specific Old Testament prophecies (many of which were completely out of His hands regarding fulfillment). It is amazing to read about the miracles that He performed. It is amazing to read of those occasions when He knew what men were thinking and responded to their thoughts. It is amazing to read of the incomparable impact that He had on the world’s population (throughout history to the present).

One of the amazing things that we read about Jesus (and sometimes lose sight of how requisite it is to our salvation) is that He never sinned—not once. It may surprise you how often this is affirmed in Scripture. Jesus was “in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15). “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us” (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus was “separate from sinners” (Heb. 7:26), in that He “committed no sin” (1 Pet. 2:22) and “in Him there is no sin” (1 John 3:5) and “no unrighteousness” (John 7:18). Jesus went to the cross and was offered as “a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet. 1:19; Heb. 9:14). Truly, no one was able to “convict” Jesus “of sin” (John 8:46). But, what is so special about that?

Jesus came to this earth “in the likeness of sinful flesh” (Rom. 8:3), meaning that He took on a flesh and blood body, which is not intrinsically (or inherently) sinful but is able to be tempted by the devil. And He was tempted! He was “in all points tempted as we are” (Heb. 4:15). (1) He was “tempted,” which meant that sin must have been tempting for Him. (2) He was tempted “in all points,” meaning the devil did not hold anything back. (3) He was tempted in all points “as we are,” meaning that Jesus faced the same temptations that you face (cf. 1 Cor. 10:13). Yet, He did not sin! He did not give in to temptation even once!

Don’t you know that must have been incredibly hard? Don’t you know that He must have been tempted to use filthy language, to call His enemies certain names, to hate those who mistreated Him, to lust after the women who were around Him, to choose to not do the things that were right for Him to do? The fact that it was tempting indicates how enticing it was to Him. But, why didn’t He give in? What kept Him from sinning?

Many answers could be given, but here’s something to meditate upon: Jesus fought back every temptation to sin, knowing that if He sinned just once, then He couldn’t save YOU! It was all for YOU! He came to be that lamb led to the slaughter for YOU (Isa. 53:7-8), but His sacrifice would only save YOU if He Himself was “without sin!” That is amazing! ~David Sproule

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away (Revelation 21:4)

Keep These Dates in Mind	August Birthdays and Anniversaries		
August 1 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship	Debbie Bolt 8/8 Danny Mendoza 8/13 Clarence & Melinda Botts 8/13 Ron & Ila Stephens 8/13 Maddison Reeser 8/18 Merry Bunker 8/22 Harvey & Lynette Jones 8/25	Harvey & Lynette Jones 8/25 Eddie Petross 8/28 Bonnie Johnson 8/28	
Please let Lynette Jones know about upcoming events, prayer requests or birthdays she hasn't included so she can include them in the bulletin.	Bible Studies		
	Adult Bible Classes Sunday a – 1 Samuel Wed p – Joel	Young Adults class-Teen Room (led by Danny Mendoza)	Ladies Class (Contact Sandi Gray for information)
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			

If we preach the Bible, we must preach the whole Bible. On one occasion Paul made this perfectly clear when he alluded to "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). That, my friends, is what we need to preach, and that is what we intend to preach. We intend, and demand, that our pulpit rings with the whole counsel of God.

To the Corinthians Paul wrote, "For I am determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2). Do you realize that without Christ there is nothing for a Gospel preacher to preach? If I cannot preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified, I have nothing worth saying. When Peter preached in Acts 2, he preached Jesus. When Phillip preached in Acts 8, he preached Jesus. Stephen preached Jesus. James preached Jesus. In fact, Stephen and James lost their lives because they preached Jesus. Brethren, in reality, every preacher in the New Testament preached Jesus.

When Peter preached in Acts 2, his audience responded to the preaching. There were baptisms that very hour. The Gospel message is a message that is designed for response. When a person hears the truth and accepts the conditions God places on salvation, there will be a baptism. The power of our message is THE message. Christ and Him crucified.

(Modified from WE MUST PREACH CHRIST by Shan Jackson)

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)

Wiping Away All My Tears

"He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. And it will be said in that day: 'Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation'" (Isaiah 25:8-9).

Pain and heartache are a part of life. None of us can escape the times of sadness that life often brings. To pretend that because we serve God every waking moment of our lives will be filled with great joy and we will never experience hurt and heartbreak is simply to not live in the reality of life.

As the prophet Isaiah is proclaiming God's judgment upon the nation of Israel, he was overwhelmed at the thought of other nations overtaking God's people. He experienced great sadness over this: *"Therefore my loins are filled with pain; pangs have taken hold of me, like the pangs of a woman in labor. I was distressed when I heard it; I was dismayed when I saw it. My heart wavered, fearfulness frightened me; the night for which I longed He turned into fear for me" (Isaiah 21:3-4).* Here was a faithful servant of God describing to us the incredible pain and heartache he was feeling over what was about to happen to his beloved Israel. He was struggling with pain, fear, and, yes, even doubt!

Can you relate to this? Have you ever struggled with the fact God is bringing everlasting punishment on "good, moral people" who, nevertheless, refuse to obey the gospel of Christ? The Bible states: *"...in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)?* Do you struggle with doubt trying to understand why God is going to send such people to an everlasting Hell?

Furthermore, have you felt pain as you have seen a brother or sister in Christ fall away from serving Christ and go back into a world? Does it bring you heartache knowing that such will face God's impending judgment? God's Word points out: *"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries" (Hebrews 10:26-27).*

Like Isaiah, I can relate to struggling with pain, fear, and even doubt as I contemplate God's impending judgment that is coming upon people whom I love who have either never obeyed the gospel of Christ or who have fallen away from Christ and turned back to Satan and the world. It is heartbreaking to think on such things. It brings tears to my eyes. However, I cannot hide my head in the sand and pretend that God's judgments on these matters are not a part of His truth because they are. To deny such is to deny God's Word and attempt to not live in reality.

How can I handle thinking about these things? As the opening verses above describe, I need to give these matters over to the Lord and "wait for Him" and His salvation. Even though Isaiah struggled with pain, fear, and doubt, he still clung to His faith in God. He looked forward to the day when God would save His people and wipe away the tears from their eyes (Isaiah 25:8-9). I praise God that He has not asked me to be the judge of the world. That is His job and I trust He will do it righteously according to His Word (John 12:48). He asks me to keep my faith in Him and look forward to the day when He will come again bringing salvation and wiping away all my tears!

~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ