

Finding Peace in the Storms of Life

During a terrible storm on the ocean, a small passenger ship rolled precariously in the roaring tempest. The furniture and anything else that could move was tied down, and the passengers were confined to their bunks for their own safety. Many on board thought the vessel was doomed.

Finally, a passenger who was determined to find out if there was any hope for survival, set out to see the one who was in command. Clinging to the walls and handrails, he made his way to the wave-lashed deck, up a ladder, and into the wheelhouse. He noticed that the ship was nearing land and was between some jagged rocks. It became apparent that the captain was trying to reach the safety of a calm bay up ahead. Knowing he could not make himself heard above the roar of the wind and waves, the captain just turned wordlessly to the worried passenger and smiled. Reassured, the man returned to the others and said, "Don't be afraid. All is well. I've seen the captain's face, and he smiled!"

When we are battered by the storms of life, we may be tempted to give in to feelings of hopelessness. But if we will look to our sovereign Captain (Hebrews 2:10 KJV) and commit our way to Him ([Psalm 37:5](#)), we will find peace even in the midst of great turmoil. We can trust Him to bring us through the storm (Mark 4:36-41). ~Mike Riley

**Master, with anguish of spirit I bow in my grief today;
The depths of my sad heart are troubled; O waken and save, I pray!
Torrents of sin and of anguish Sweep o'er my sinking soul!
And I perish! I perish, dear Master; O hasten, and take control!
The winds and the waves shall obey Thy will, Peace be still!
Whether the wrath of the storm-tossed sea, Or demons, or men, or whatever it be,
No water can swallow the ship where lies, The Master of ocean and earth and skies;
They all shall sweetly obey Thy will, Peace be still! Peace be still! —Palmer**

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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Casey Rice: 479-438-2038; crice5523@gmail.com

Attendance 12/12: 36

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution: 12/12: NA

December 19, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Blind Leaders of the Blind

Sometimes those who are followers do not realize that they are blind. They truly and honestly believe that those who are leading them and teaching them are solid, knowledgeable, trustworthy persons. For a variety of reasons, followers often follow without verifying what they are being told. Sometimes that's just easier. But, when it comes to our eternal salvation, do we want to put our trust in a man or in the God of heaven?

In Matthew 15, Jesus had one of His many encounters with the Pharisees—a Jewish sect who were revered for their (supposed) knowledge of and strict adherence to the Law of God. The Pharisees were the largest Jewish sect of Jesus' day, with many followers. However, what the Pharisees adhered themselves to was their own traditions, not the Law of God. (Read the parallel verses in Mark 7:1-4.) Jesus called them, "*Blind leaders of the blind.*"

They were "*blind leaders of the blind*" because they would "*break the commandment of God for the sake of [their] tradition*" (15:3). Any group today who is more focused on their manmade traditions and doctrines than they are on carefully following the doctrine of Christ fall in this same category.

They were "*blind leaders of the blind*" because they changed the nature, focus and basis of "worship" of God (15:7-9). First of all, the focus of the worship was more on the outward than on the inward. "*Their heart*" was "*far from*" God, even though they looked, on the outside, like they were honoring Him. Second, the basis of their worship was "*teaching as doctrines the commandments of men,*" which made their worship "*vain.*" True worship is "*in spirit and truth*" (John 4:24). When either or both of these elements is absent or misrepresented, the worship is not acceptable to God.

They were "*blind leaders of the blind*" because they "*were offended*" at the teaching of Jesus and His truth, rather than being convicted by it (15:12). When individuals are not concerned with "*the whole counsel of God*" (Acts 20:27), but only focus on their own wishes and traditions, they will be offended when Jesus' truth is taught to them.

Look carefully at what Jesus said about those who are blind leaders and those who are their followers. "*Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted,*" and "both will fall into a ditch" (15:13-14). Many denominations, human doctrines and manmade practices have been "*planted,*" which are "*not according to Christ*" (Col. 2:8). They may "*seem right,*" but their "*end is the way of death*" (Prov. 14:12). May God help us to not be a blind leader or a blind follower! Let us open our eyes to His one truth! ~David Sproule

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here he is risen as he said. Come here and see the place where he lay: then go quickly and tell his disciples he has risen as he said." (Matt 28:5,6)

Keep These Dates in Mind	November Birthdays and Anniversaries			For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Phil 2:13)
Nov 12/5 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship 12/09 - Study of Denominations 7:00p 12/14 - Study of Denominations 7:00p 12/23 - Study of Denominations 7:00p 12/28 - Study of Denominations 7:00p	Mark Minor 12/04 Sandi Gray 12/14 Kyle McCown 12/19 Bill & Linda Lafferty 12/24			
Those with ongoing health issues:	Bible Studies			
Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Gerald Funnell, Sandi Gray, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Jim Preston	Adult Bible Classes (Fellowship Hall) Sunday am – Minor Prophets Wed pm – Gospel of John	Young Adult Class (Teen Room) Christian Living (Led by Danny Mendoza)	Ladies Class (Contact Sandi Gray for information)	

IN OUR PRAYERS: (Updates -)

Bill Lafferty who had surgery on **12/9**, that he will get better quickly.

Jim Preston as they have found the trigger for his migraines and that he will continue to improve.

Gerald Funnell who is still in rehab slowing healing from breaking his lower leg and ankle

Phyllis Hubbard broke her kneecap and is in Life Care in Richland where she will be for two months.

Merry Christmas!

It has become politically incorrect to say Merry Christmas, and that makes me want to proclaim it even louder to people so they remember Jesus Christ. But in many ways, I'm conflicted by adopting all the religious overtones of the season, because I don't want people to celebrate Christ's birth more so than his death, burial and resurrection. We don't know the day of his birth, most likely not in winter. The Apostles and early writers of the Bible didn't put much importance on his birth. The early Christians didn't celebrate his birth. Instead, they celebrated his resurrection, every first day of the week.

While we all come together and enjoy the season, getting together with family, exchanging gifts, and refocusing on what is important in life -love, charity, hope, kindness. Let's place proper focus on what Christ did for us by sacrificing himself, overcoming death and saving us from our sins. ~Unknown

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

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)

Going on to Perfection

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves" (Matthew 7:15). Although Jesus warned his followers about the threats false teachers would impose, how many of us are willing to go to battle against false teachers? As the opening passage above states, Jude encourages Christians to contend earnestly for the faith and warns us about those who would lead people astray by promoting error (Jude 3).

Why was there a need to "contend earnestly for the faith"? False teachers had snuck into the church teaching error. Jude writes, "For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 4). Moreover, about them Jude adds: "These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage" (Jude 16). These teachers posed a threat to the health of the church by the impact their deceitful teaching could have in leading Christians astray from the faith.

However, the Christians to whom Jude wrote were practicing fellowship with these false teachers as if nothing was wrong. Jude states, "These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever" (Jude 12-13). Instead of ignoring the threat these false teachers had brought to the church, Jude notes they needed to "contend earnestly for the faith" as they were to battle against them (Jude 3)!

How were these Christians to "contend earnestly for the faith"? First, they needed to be vigilant and on guard against the threat of false teaching. Jude states, "But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts" (Jude 17-18). Second, they were to continue to grow in following the teachings of God. Jude adds, "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (Jude 20-21). Having a strong knowledge of the truth equips one to be alert when false teaching tries to sneak into the church. Finally, they were to make every effort to rescue those who had been led astray by these false teachers. Jude writes, "And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh" (Jude 22-23).

We are blessed to live in a time when God's Will for us has been fully revealed (cf. Ephesians 3:1-7). False teachers twist the purity of God's message to sinful man. We need to continue growing in knowing and following God's Word so we can be equipped to battle error and to do our part in rescuing those who have gone astray. ~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen" (Jude 24-25).