

Exposing the darkness

Exposing the darkness Here's a newsflash (not really): There is darkness all around us! Of course, you already knew that! The darkness of sin, ungodliness and immorality has filled the earth since Adam and Eve were driven from the garden. What can you do about it? One responsibility we have is to "expose" the "unfruitful works of darkness" (Eph. 5:11). How do we do that? Take time to read Ephesians 5:8-14. Go ahead. While "you were once darkness," you must now "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them." Read through and mark the five times you read the word "light," and you will discover how we are to expose the darkness. "Now you are light in the Lord... Walk as children of light... All things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light." As we (1) live a life in His "light," (2) preach the message of His "light," and (3) defend the truth of His "light," it is God's light that exposes darkness. Live it! Preach it! Defend it! – David Sproule

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phillipians 4:6,7)

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; cbotts@hotmail.com

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; Vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Bill Gregory (360)710-0449

billgreg67@gmail.com

Bill Gregory's office hours are from 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. (Please call to make sure he is in before stopping by)

Open Congregational meeting – 2nd Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome

Attendance 09/20: 49

Budget \$2484.00

Contribution 09/20: \$2160.30

September 27, 2020

Kennewick Church of Christ



Follow Me

Have you seen that person that is so worried about what others are doing or not doing that they don't do anything themselves? Jesus said to Peter, "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go" (John 21:18). John tells us that Jesus was talking about the kind of death that Peter would glorify God with. This was followed by a strong, "Follow me!" from Jesus. Right after that comment Peter seemingly points to John and says, "What about this guy?" (John 21:21 paraphrased). Jesus responded with, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!" (John 21:22). Peter, after hearing about his death at an old age, asks about John. He could've pondered his own life a bit longer. He could have thought about a long life in service to his Master. Instead, he asks about how someone else is going to die. Jesus' response was simply, "What does that matter? Follow Me!" We may have all been guilty at some point of focusing too much on what others are doing, how others are serving and forget that we have our own role to play in the big scheme of things. There are some problems that arise from that kind of thinking. One is the comparison game. We could start thinking, "I'm not as good" or "I'm better" than whoever is in our sights. Obviously, this is a dangerous game. We either exalt ourselves, or we debase our work God has given us to do. Another issue is losing focus. Jesus got Peter's attention by saying, "Follow me!" We need to remember who we are following, and He has a work for us to do. I'm not promoting the idea that we are given a "calling" as some would espouse. However, "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin" (Jas. 4:17). This is a good one. We know the good that we can do. Have we lost focus by all the people around us? Lastly, this kind of thinking can affect our motivation. Why are we doing or living the way we need to live? Is it to be better or as good as someone? It would be better to be motivated out of love and service (John 14:15). A few verses to help us in perspective. "The whole body being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16). We all have our individual role. What is yours? When we are working, we need to remember, "But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment" (1 Tim. 6:6). These concepts, when applied, will keep us focused and so busy we won't have time or desire to worry what other people are or aren't doing. ~Josh Blackmer

O you who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; for he delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name. (Ps. 97:10-12)

Keep These Dates in Mind	October Birthdays and Anniversaries		
<p>Since we have entered into this time of uncertainty with those in the government asking us to keep our assemblies to a minimum and to use caution and discretion as we meet, any activities that may be planned will be announced in a timely fashion a week before they are planned to happen and will be put out on the call multiplier.</p> <p>Sandy Gray has volunteered to put out an informational email during the week to update the church of immediate prayer needs or information that needs to be disseminated before/in-between our scheduled meeting times. If you wish to be on this list, please email her and give her your email information.</p>	<p>LeRoy & Sue Pierce 10/4 Michael Manning 10/5 Kenneth Winstead 10/6 LaVern Engelke 10/8 Mark & Sue Minor 10/9 Tom & Lupe Mendoza 10/13</p>		<p>Clarence Botts 10/22 Melinda Botts 10/25 Harvey Jones 10/25 Tom Mendoza 10/25 Melinda Botts 10/25 Norm & Phyllis Hubbard 10/29</p>
Bible Studies			
Adult Bible Classes Sunday a - O.T. Sunday p -Colossians Wed p -Thessalonians	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 Laferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Shannon Mendoza,, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce, Bill & Linda Lafferty's daughter-in-law, Michael Stimson, Fred Fleming, Hubbard Family			



Bill Henniger went home to God on Monday Sept 21, 2020. He was buried on Saturday Sept 26. Please keep Fran and family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of their husband, father, grandfather and as they travel back to their respective homes.

Shannon Mendoza as she recovers from surgery

Jack Danley had tests this week, and it was determined he will be able to have his next surgery on schedule during the first week in October. This is related to the emergency surgery he had in May.

Mary Hill's new Address: 513 Boros Ct., Richland, Wa. 99352. Phone: 509 820 8431.

Gene Stimson, (Father of Michael Stimson, son-in-law to Wanda and Jack Danley) died on Saturday Sept. 26 due to lung cancer

Remember to bring the items you have set aside for the Mountain States Children's home. There are only a few Sundays left until the scheduled pick-up date!

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)

When Hatred Fills Our Hearts

"But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. So, he prayed to the Lord, and said, 'Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore, I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!' (Jonah 4:1-3).

Have you ever hated someone? Most of us would say at some point in our lives, we have harbored some hate for someone. Is it okay to hate some people, especially if they act very evil or hurt others? Are there any negative effects to holding on to a little hatred?

The book of Jonah shows us the effects harboring hatred has upon our lives. God had tasked the prophet Jonah to go and preach to the city of Ninevah (Jonah 1:1-2). Ninevah was the capital of the Assyrian empire which was a mighty military threat to God's people Israel. Instead of going to preach to the Assyrians as God had commanded him, Jonah flees the opposite direction (Jonah 1:3). In attempting to recover His runaway prophet, God sends a storm (Jonah 1:4) and causes Jonah to be swallowed by a fish (Jonah 1:17). After 3 nights in the fish's belly, Jonah returns to God and seeks God in prayer (Jonah 2:1-9). God then has the great fish vomit Jonah onto the dry land (Jonah 2:10).

However, what was the reason Jonah fled from God in the first place and did not initially go to preach to the Assyrians? We learn this from the events following Jonah's being upchucked from the fish. Jonah is sent once again to preach to the city of Ninevah: "Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, 'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you' "(Jonah 3:1-2). This time Jonah goes and does exactly what God told him to do (Jonah 3:3-4). The response on behalf of the people is amazing. They repent! From the king to the commoner, the people humble themselves before God (Jonah 3:5-9). God sees this and responds favorably to their display of repentance: "God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it" (Jonah 3:10).

Most preachers would be happy to see such a response by the people to whom they had proclaimed God's message, but, as the opening verses above indicate, Jonah was not pleased by the people's response and God's response. In fact, Jonah was so disgusted he wanted to die (Jonah 4:3). From his prayer to God, we learn of why Jonah had initially fled from God: "So he prayed to the Lord, and said, 'Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm' " (Jonah 4:2). Jonah had initially fled from carrying out God's command to preach to the city of Ninevah because he was so filled with hate, he was fearful God would actually forgive these enemies of his.

Jonah's hatred of the Assyrians had consumed him and led to his becoming disobedient to God's Will for his life and even led to Jonah's resenting God's great love for all men. When I let hatred for anyone to fill my heart, it can consume me as well and lead to my becoming bitter not only towards my enemies, but even towards God. As a Christian, I have been called to show love towards God and all men. ~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation among whom you shine as lights in the world. (Phillipians 2:12-15)