

Preserving Unity

What is perhaps the one thing that has destroyed more congregations of the Lord's church than anything else? Division. Our inability to accept the diversity of opinions, personalities and liberties of fellow Christians causes the local church to fracture and come apart. When disagreements and disputes are not quickly resolved the result can be devastating. So how can we prevent such a disaster? The answer can be easily found within the scriptures:

- Follow Jesus' guide to conflict resolution - Matthew 18:15-20
- Agree with your adversary quickly - Matthew 5:25
- Do not return evil for evil – 1 Peter 3:9
- Put up with each other's imperfections with love - Ephesians 4:2
- Forgive as you've been forgiven - Colossians 3:13
- Restore the sinner in a spirit of gentleness – Galatians 6:1
- Strive to keep the unity of the Spirit - Ephesians 4:3
- Avoid divisive members - Romans 16:17
- Love as brothers, be tenderhearted and courteous - 1 Peter 3:8
- Warn each other as you would family – 2 Thessalonians 3:15
- Willing to sacrifice your liberty for unity's sake – Romans 14:21
- Respect the leadership of your elders - 1 Timothy 5:19 Pray for each other – James 5:16
- Love each other as God has loved us - 1 John 4:11

~Jay Lanius

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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Minister:

July 11, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



The Life Of Jesus in Six "Words"

The Bible is characterized by the summation of eternal, great truths in short paragraphs. We make the mistake of reading these verses without giving thought to the astounding truths found in them. One of these passages is the summation of the life of Jesus in six short phrases and written by Paul to Timothy (1 Tim. 3:16).

The passage begins with these words, "Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness..." The evidence is such that to honest observers it is beyond doubt. It then continues with these words about Jesus, "God was..."

"Manifested in the flesh..." Jesus was there in the beginning (John 1:1) and deity emptied Himself and was made into a mortal man. He was Immanuel and dwelt among us and was a visible manifestation of the glory of God (Phil. 2:6-8; Matt. 1:23; John 1:14).

"Justified in the Spirit..." Not justified as we are, for He had no sin. He was justified, vindicated by the Holy Spirit who raised Him from the dead (Rom. 8:11). He claimed to be the Son of God, and they called Him, "Beelzebub." The Holy Spirit vindicated Him by empowering the Son of God to cast out demonic spirits. His words on that day were, "If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Matt. 12:28). Every miracle He performed vindicated His claim of being the Son of God.

"Seen by angels..." While this may have reference to the angels who from heaven desired to understand what the prophets foretold about His coming (1 Pet. 1:12), it more likely refers to the emphasis found in the New Testament. The word angels simply means messengers and is also applied to men (Matt. 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:24; James 2:25). The New Testament places great emphasis on those apostles and early Christians who saw the resurrected Lord and told others about it (Luke 24:48; Acts 1:8; 2:32; etc.).

"Preached among the Gentiles..." The mystery of God centers around the inclusion of the Gentiles (Eph. 3:6), and His messengers carried the gospel to every creature on earth (Col. 1:23).

"Believed on in the world..." The message was not only preached it was believed—not by just a few in a limited isolated places. The New Testament world saw His believers.

"Received up in glory..." The life of Jesus does not end at Golgotha's cross. He was raised, and the witnesses saw Him ascend into glory. The message of Pentecost and throughout the world to every creature was God raised Him from the dead to reign (Acts 2:32-33) until the last enemy is destroyed.

Take time to think about His life in these six "words." ~Dan Jenkins

Keep These Dates in Mind

July 11 – Potluck
July 17 – Memorial for Marilyn Davis

Please let Lynette Jones know about upcoming events, prayer requests or birthdays she hasn't included so she can include them in the bulletin.

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Kael Botts 7/3
Danny & Shannon Mendoza 7/22
Jim & Holly Preston 7/22
Sarah Mendoza 7/28
Ila Stephens 7/28

...And to be renewed in the spirit of your mind and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

Bible Studies

Adult Bible Classes
Sunday a – 1 Samuel
Wed p – Obediah

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 Michael Stimson, Jim Preston



Leland and Marilyn's daughter Kristi will be arriving from Italy on July 10th. Marilyn's memorial will be officiated by Brian Russel at the Kennewick church of Christ building, Saturday, July 17th at 2:00pm.

In Our Prayers If any of the ladies would like to bring a small salad, dessert, cookies, or finger food, call or text Holly Preston (714)331-4998. (Leland asked that we keep it simple, no large meal.) It was good to see **Sandi Gray** back among us last Sunday.

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second one is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:28-30)

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)

Receiving the Instruction of Wisdom

"To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion-- a wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel" (Proverbs 1:2-5).

The key word in the book of Proverbs is "wisdom" (i.e. the ability to live life skillfully). A godly life in an ungodly world, however, is no easy assignment. It is challenging to navigate. Through Proverbs, in God's infinite wisdom, He provides detailed instructions for His people to deal successfully with the affairs of everyday life: how to relate to God, parents, children, neighbors, and the government.

Regarding wisdom and the role wisdom plays in our life, God has much to say. First, wisdom will enter our life only if we fear the Lord: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7). Wisdom begins when one places his faith in God!

Second, wisdom will not force its way into our lives; it must be welcomed: "My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck" (Proverbs 1:8-9). Solomon adds, "Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open squares. She cries out in the chief concourses, at the openings of the gates in the city she speaks her words: 'How long, you, simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge. Turn at my rebuke; surely, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you'" (Proverbs 1:20-23).

Third, not only do we need to welcome wisdom into our lives, we need to seek it as we would seek treasure: "My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God" (Proverbs 2:1-5). If we will exercise such diligence in seeking wisdom, God will give us wisdom in abundance: "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints" (Proverbs 2:6-8).

Finally, whether we seek and welcome wisdom into our lives, or choose to reject God's wisdom, wisdom's principles will prevail. Wisdom is described as saying to those who reject her, "Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes" (Proverbs 1:24-26). However, if we embrace the wisdom which God offers to give us, wisdom will lead us to a safe and secure life: "For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil" (Proverbs 1:32-33).

~Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).