

### Take a Minute to Refresh and Remember

Do the latest news reports have you worried about what's going on? Are the stresses of your job becoming more unbearable? Is there family tension that is causing you to feel increased levels of anxiety? Are your personal finances not enough to meet increased expenses? Are you stressed, anxious, worried, overwhelmed, maybe even a bit panicked?

For 60 seconds, take a pause. Take two deep breaths. Shut out everything. Shut off everything. Think of two ways that God has blessed you just today. Think of two simple (30-second) ways you could make a positive difference in someone else's day (who may be experiencing similar life issues). Talk to the Lord in simple terms, "Lord, I need you. I want you. I love you. Please, help me." Remember that with the Lord, there is "relief," "mercy," "favor," "good," "gladness," "peace" and "safety" (Psalm 4).

Is everything still going to be "going wrong" after these 60 seconds? Perhaps. But "put your trust in the Lord" (4:5) and He will "lift up the light of [His] face upon [you]" (4:6). ~David Sproule

It is by and through faith by which we access the wonderful gift of God's grace and salvation, thus we are motivated to do good works and continue in them for a lifetime (Ephesians 2:8-10; Revelation 2:10). To fail to do so results in a useless faith (James 2:17-18) and without faith there is no way to please our Heavenly Father (Hebrews 11:6). Hebrews 10:38 says, "Now the just shall live by faith", meaning faithfulness is a way of life. Continued trust and faith in God through Christ can and will keep us on the narrow road to our heavenly home. ~Jay Launius

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

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### Minister:

August 22, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



### The King Was Always Focused on His Kingdom

Do you know anyone who always talks about the same things in every conversation? It gives you clear insight into what is most important to that person. What would you say that Jesus talked about continually and was most important to Him? It is not hard to figure out.

After Jesus was baptized, the Bible indicates that He went out working miracles and "preaching the gospel of the kingdom" (Matt. 4:23), telling the multitude, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent" (Luke 4:43). He talked to Nicodemus about the only entrance available into "the kingdom of God" (John 3:3-5). The Sermon on the Mount gave repeated attention to attitudes, conduct and conditions related to "the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3, 10, 19, 20; 6:10, 13, 33; 7:21). Jesus told parable after parable describing the nature of His coming kingdom (Matt. 13:1-52; 18:23-35; 20:1-16; 22:2-14; 25:1-30). He sent out the twelve apostles (Matt. 10:7; Luke 9:2) and the seventy disciples (Luke 10:9) to preach about the coming kingdom.

Jesus told His followers that the kingdom was coming. From the early days of His ministry, He proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). He promised to "build" His church and to "give...the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 16:18-19). To further pinpoint the timing, Jesus announced that "there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom" (Matt. 16:28) and "see the kingdom of God present with power" (Mark 9:1). He went on to explain to His apostles that such would happen "in the city of Jerusalem" (Luke 24:49), "not many days from now" (Acts 1:5).

When one reads through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, he will read the word "kingdom" 127 times. That's nearly one-and-a-half times in every chapter. Does that tell you how important the subject was to Jesus?

Then, consider that Jesus spent 40 days on the earth after His resurrection. These were His "last 40 days" to say whatever He wanted to say and to prepare His disciples for His departure. So, what did He spend 40 days talking to them about? "The things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3).

The kingdom was vitally important to Christ! It was His reason for coming! It was His reason for dying! That's why His followers continued in the book of Acts to preach, reason and persuade "concerning the kingdom of God" (Acts 8:12; 19:8; 28:23-31). This begs the question: How important is the kingdom to us? Do we talk about it? Is it our reason for living? ~David Sproule

**In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven. (Matt. 5:16)**

**Keep These Dates in Mind**

August 1 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship

Sept 5 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship

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

**August Birthdays and Anniversaries**

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

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Eddie Petross 8/28  
Bonnie Johnson 8/28  
Leonard Peters 8/29

**Bible Studies**

**Adult Bible Classes**  
Sunday a – 1 Samuel  
Wed p – Minor Prophets

**Young Adults class- Teen Room** (led by Danny Mendoza)

**Ladies Class**  
(Contact Sandi Gray for information)

**Eunice and Ed Petross** moved into rehab this week and will remain there as she recovers from surgery and while her hip heals. Please keep them in your prayers.

**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

God will never leave you empty.  
He will replace everything you lost,  
If He asks you to put something down,  
It's because  
He wants you to pick up something greater.



COMING TO CHURCH ALWAYS  
MAKES ME FEEL BETTER, EVEN  
WHEN THE PREACHER STARTS  
STEPPING ON MY TOES.

Komedy Korner

**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)

**The Challenge of Accepting God's Judgment**

"I also spoke to Zedekiah king of Judah according to all these words, saying, 'Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live! Why will you die, you and your people, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, as the Lord has spoken against the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon?'" (Jeremiah 27:12-13).

What do you think in regard to Hell? Do you believe it is a place where God will send the wicked for eternity (cf. Matthew 25:41; Revelation 21:8) or is the thought of Hell so terrible that you have difficulty accepting that a loving God (cf. John 3:16) could render such harsh judgment for evil men?

These questions challenge our thinking and demonstrate that it is not always easy to accept God's judgments. As the opening verses above describe, through the prophet Jeremiah, God was trying to get His people to accept His upcoming judgment regarding their sin and rebellion against Him. The Lord was bringing Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, to conquer God's people because of their sin. The people of Jeremiah's day had great difficulty in accepting this harsh judgment from God.

Though His people had sinned and would have to endure God's judgment of them by serving the king of Babylon, God wanted them to see that by their willingness to embrace this judgment of God and by their submitting to serve the King of Babylon for a while, they would actually make their sentence easier. To illustrate His point, God even has Jeremiah tell the surrounding nations to "Make for yourselves bonds and yokes, and put them on your neck and thus submit themselves to the rule of the King of Babylon, who is going to be God's instrument of judgment" (Jeremiah 27:1-11). Then to His own people, God encourages them to by saying, "Bring you necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people and live!" (Jeremiah 27:12). If they refused to do this, they would not live, but would die by sword, famine, and pestilence (Jeremiah 27:13).

This was not a message God's people wanted to hear. They did not want to accept God's judgment of them. Instead, false prophets arose who lied and told God's people this would not happen. For example, the false prophet Hananiah went so far as to take the yoke off Jeremiah's neck, break it and falsely say, "Thus says the Lord, 'Even so I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all nations within the space of two full years'" (Jeremiah 28:10-11). God warned His people not to listen to such false prophets: "Therefore do not listen to the words of the prophets who speak to you, saying, 'You shall not serve the king of Babylon,' for they prophesy a lie to you; for I have not sent them," says the Lord, 'yet they prophesy a lie in My name, that I may drive you out, and that you may perish, you and the prophets who prophesy to you'" (Jeremiah 27:14-15).

Sadly, God's people refused to listen to Jeremiah's warnings and encouragement to submit themselves to God's judgment in the form of being ruled by the King of Babylon. They rebelled and thus suffered horrible destruction at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar (cf. 2 Chronicles 36:13-19). It broke Jeremiah's heart to see this happen to his people: "My eyes fail with tears, my heart is troubled; my bile is poured on the ground because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, because the children and the infants faint in the streets of the city" (Lamentations 2:11).

As God's love is something we should celebrate (cf. Romans 5:6-11), even so His judgments for sin are terrible and should be feared, respected, and accepted by those who call themselves His people (2 Corinthians 5:10-11). ~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley Church of Christ