

An Atheist Denies That Which the Devil Admits

The Bible says, "...the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19), yet an atheist will not go that far. He doesn't believe, period! What are the grounds of disbelief? Some say:

1. "I don't believe in God because I can't see him." But we believe in other things we can't see, namely love, hate, electricity, etc.
2. "God's existence can't be proven by the scientists." Perhaps scientists don't have big enough laboratories and test tubes! Don't limit God to the measure of our own ideas. The Lord said, "...thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself..." (Psalm 50:21).
3. "I can't understand all about God." But the man who believes only what he can understand must have an enormously large brain or a very small creed. God has given, in the Bible, the specific information we need to know about Him and our responsibilities (Acts 27:22-31;22:16; Romans 12).

An appeal to the world itself helps us to see the evidence of God. Can there be a work of art without an artist? A design without a designer? An effect without a cause? God's wisdom and power are displayed in nature so that only "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God..." (Psalm 14:1) Just as sure as a house has a builder, so the universe has a maker (Hebrews 3:4).

The certainty of God's existence is not at all affected by persistent denials of Him. Our God, He is Alive!

~Bill Dillion

Did you Know?

Balm of Gilead was a rare perfume used medicinally, that was mentioned in the Bible, and named for the region of Gilead, where it was produced. The expression stems from William Tyndale's language in the King James Bible of 1611 and has come to signify a universal cure in figurative speech. The tree or shrub producing the balm is commonly identified as Commiphora gileadensis. Some botanical scholars have concluded that the actual source was a terebinth tree.

Kennewick Church of Christ

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336
509-783-4013

Website: www.Kennewickcoc.com

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: kenncoc@gmail.com

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

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

Minister:

September 26, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Our Spiritual Heritage in Christ

The letter to the church in Ephesus begins with a blessing. "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*" (Eph. 1:3). Chapters one through three highlight some of those spiritual blessings, one of which involves our heritage in Christ. While most of us no longer wake up thinking about being a Gentile trying to interact with a Jewish community, it was a real issue in the early church. A spiritual blessing that we have in Christ is all of that was done away with. That is the theme of chapter two in the Ephesian letter.

When the chapter begins, we are dead (Eph. 2:1-3). We are dead in sin and children of wrath. There is nothing that we can do to change our spiritual state. Then God steps in. The grace of God is highlighted (Eph. 2:4-10). Phrases are used to describe the abundance of God's conduct toward us: "*rich in mercy,*" "*great love,*" and "*surpassing riches of His grace.*" All of this underscores that God did not just barely pay the debt we owed but went beyond what was needed to redeem us back (Eph. 1:7-8).

That redemption brought us into a new relationship with God and with the Jewish people that were obedient to God through Jesus Christ (Eph 2:11-22). Not only were we dead before Christ, but we were also separated from God in every way, to the point that we had no hope and were strangers to God (Eph. 2:11-12). Those of us that "*formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ*" (Eph. 2:13). There is a dividing line in a relationship with God. If I'm not near, bought with blood, then I am far away and have no hope. There is no middle ground. What separated us into two classes of people and what separated us from God was taken away (Eph. 2:14-18). From the two God made one people. We were reconciled "*both in one body to God through the cross*" (Eph. 2:16). Now that we are one, something else has changed.

In this new state of being near to God, we have a new spiritual heritage (Eph. 2:19-22). "*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household*" (Eph. 2:19). We are now brought into the family of God. All of this was built about the teaching of the prophets and the apostles with Christ being the cornerstone that fit everything together. In chapter three, Paul will expound on the fact that the Gentiles being a part of the blessings of God was a mystery that had been hidden but was now being revealed in Christ. It was part of God's eternal purpose in His great wisdom and love. Do not take lightly the spiritual heritage and inheritance we have in Christ. It is by the grace of God, not of ourselves. ~Josh Blackmer

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no Physician there?

Why is there no healing for the wounds of my people?

(Jeremiah 8:22)

<i>Keep These Dates in Mind</i>	<i>October Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	
Oct 3 – Fellowship Meal after Sunday morning worship	Kenneth Winstead 10/6 LaVern Engelke 10/8 Clarence Botts 10/22 Melinda Botts 10/25 Harvey Jones 10/25	Keep us oh Lord In our times of need, Safe and secure In the palm of Your hand

Those with 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

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)
---	---	---

Bill Lafferty is recovering well from his illness. We look forward to when he'll be back among us.

For those who know the **Roberson family**, **John** passed away a day or two ago. He was **Reba Berry's** father, and as you remember, Reba's husband, Don passed away a couple of weeks ago, so that family is dealing with a lot of grief.

**IN
OUR
PRAYERS**

Also, for those who may remember **Tom Ault** from the Richland congregation, he died recently after suffering a severe stroke. Just a few weeks prior to his death, he had been seen up on a ladder at the church building changing light bulbs.

Kimberly Stevens' (formerly Staten, Ernie Staten's youngest daughter) husband **William** has been seriously ill with Covid for three weeks and is on a respirator. Please keep the Staten and Peters' families in your prayers and keep William in your prayers that he may recover from this serious turn.

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)

Our God – A Consuming Fire

Having reminded us that “God...spoke long ago to the (Hebrew) fathers in the prophets” (Hebrews 1:1), the writer of the Hebrews epistle then adds that “...in these last days (i.e., the Christian dispensation) (God) has spoken to us in His Son” (Hebrews 1:2). Commentators upon the text often draw our attention to the expression “en huiou” (“in His Son”) and point out that there is no article or pronoun here with the preposition “en”, “...giving the absolute sense of ‘Son’” (A.T. Robertson). Evidently emphasis is upon the fact that “...the new revelation is given through one who is a son as distinguished from a prophet...The revelation was son-revelation” (M.R. Vincent). “God spake to us in one who has this character that He is a Son” (Rienecker and Rogers).

Now, as the Hebrews writer continues, he details seven facts about the Son which emphasize His greatness, and thereby stresses the importance of the divine revelation given through Him. First, God “appointed” His Son “*heir of all things*,” meaning that Jesus is possessor of all that the Father possesses (Acts 2:36; John 17:10; 16:15). Next, the Son is the One “*through whom also He made the world*” (Galatians 1:15-17; John 1:3,10; 1 Corinthians 8:6), not a “passive tool” but a “cooperating agent” (Wuest). Then Christ is “*the radiance of His (God’s) glory*,” perfectly manifesting the brilliant radiancy of the God who cannot be seen (John 1:18). He is also “*the exact representation of His (God’s) nature*,” so that He may claim with authority: “*He who has seen Me has seen the Father* (John 14:9). It is Christ who “*upholds all things by the word of His power*.” He it was who “*...made purification of sins*” at awful cost to Himself, and He it was who then “*...sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high*,” exalted, supreme, possessing all authority (Ephesians 4:10; Philippians 2:9; Psalm 110; Luke 22:69; Matthew 28:18; John 17:2). This then, according to the Hebrews writer, is the nature and status of the One through whom God has spoken in the pages of the New Testament.

Now, given the superiority of the Son to “the prophets,” what lesson do we learn about Jehovah’s revelation through the Christ? Simply this: “*...if the word spoken through angels* (at Sinai; Galatians 3:19; Acts 7:53) proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation (as that proclaimed by the Son in the Gospel)?” (Hebrews 2:2,3). Surely “*...to treat it lightly therefore must expose one to sanctions even more awful than those which safeguarded the law*” (F.F. Bruce). Later on, the Hebrews writer reminds certain Jewish Christians who are in danger of reverting to Judaism: “Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses” (Hebrews 10:28). He then poses the question: “How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified and has insulted the Spirit of grace?” (verse 29).

How serious is apostasy from Christ – deadly serious! “*For if these did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth (i.e., Israel in the wilderness), much less shall we (apostate Christians) escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven*” (Hebrews 12:25). Apostasy = death! Yes, of course love is the best motivation for seeing Christ! Yes, of course gratitude rather than fear should keep us faithful (Hebrews 12:28). But when love’s appeal and gratitude’s promptings fail to move the heart, let’s not forget: “*...our God is a consuming fire*” (Hebrews 12:29). (Rex Banks, The Voice of Truth International, Volume Eleven)