

Your Choices Impact Others

Sometimes we may think that what we do and how we live only impacts us personally, so if I make certain choices or behave a certain way, that's my problem and no one else's. Such a concept is completely foreign to reality and, for sure, foreign to Scripture.

For example, did you know that whether a man is qualified to serve as an elder or as a deacon in the church is directly affected by the choices and behavior of others? Specifically, the wives of elders and deacons "must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things" (1 Tim. 3:11). A man may meet all of the other qualifications given by God, but if his wife is not qualified, then he is not qualified.

Of course, our choices on a daily basis have an impact on lots of folks—for good and for bad. My actions can either cause others to be "sharpened" (Prov. 27:17) or they can cause others to "stumble" (Rom. 14:13). May God help us to be ever conscious of our influence on others! ~David Sproule

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

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:

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Minister:

Casey Rice

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KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



He Hears Our Prayers AND Groanings

Hear these words of David from the depths of despair: "My soul also is greatly troubled...return O Lord, deliver me! Oh, save me for Your mercies' sake! I am weary with my groaning; all night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears" (Psa. 6:3-5). Have you ever been at this same place? If not, some day you may be. The trials of life come upon us, and we groan and seek for God. At times like this, rest assured that He hears more than our prayers. He hears our groaning.

When Hagar had been sent away from Abraham's household, she took her son, Ishmael, and fled into the wilderness. It was not long before they ran out of water and were dying of thirst. She was watching her own son as he was dying. Read the text carefully as it describes her prayer for death and deliverance from watching her child die. "Let me not see the death of the boy...And God heard the voice of the lad...and said to her, 'What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is'" (Gen. 21:16-17). God heard the voice of Hagar and even the voice of Ishmael as death approached.

God heard the groanings of the Jews in Egyptian bondage as their taskmasters oppressed them. "Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage...So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (Ex. 2:23-24). They cried out and God heard both their groanings and their prayers! Stephen reminded the Jews of the events at the burning bush. God said to Moses, "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning and I have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt" (Acts 7:34).

The trials in Egypt began with the oppression of evil men and this brought about the agony and groaning of the slaves in bondage. It was so severe that they first groaned. Then they cried out, and God responded. But note that even before they prayed, God heard the groaning. Before He heard them pray, He heard them groaning.

What does this have to do with us? God is eternal, and He never changes. These verses do not describe how God was. It describes how He is—the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8). Remember His name given at this burning bush: He is I AM.

A small child wakes in the middle of the night with pain. He is hurting and begins to sob. He hurts and feels so alone in the darkness. Unknown to him, his mom hears him crying and is rushing to his side, even before he calls out to her. Remember He hears both our groanings and prayers.

~DanJenkins, Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because ^(a) the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26,27)

<i>Keep These Dates in Mind</i>	<i>October Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	
Oct 17 – 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	Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; ² from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I (Ps. 61:1,2)

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

Karen McBurney has asked for Prayers for her brother and his wife, **Darrell McBurney and Stephanie McBurney**. They drive trucks cross-country with their home base in Spokane. They have been ill and not able to drive, impacting their income each day they are ill.

Gerald Funnell seriously damaged his ankle and lower leg this week and was scheduled to have surgery to correct the damage. Keep him in your prayers as he begins to recover.

Many of you know **LeRoy and Sue Pierce**, parents of our classmates Judy Ward and Janette Pettey. Sue and LeRoy will be celebrating their 75th wedding anniversary this Saturday,. They have decided to celebrate quietly at home with just the family because of covid concerns, and "not wanting a fuss Cards and letters are always appreciated.

Casey Rice has accepted our offer to have him come work with our congregation as a full-time minister. His first day will be October 17. Come welcome him and stay for the potluck after services so you can get to know him better.

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)

Settled in Complacency

"And it shall come to pass at that time that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will He do evil.' Therefore, their goods shall become booty, and their houses a desolation; they shall build houses, but not inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine. The great day of the Lord is near; it is near and hastens quickly..." (Zephaniah 1:12-14).

Have you ever felt like you were "stuck in a rut"? Being "stuck in a rut" is an idiom going back to the days when people traveled by horses and buggies. The wheels of a buggy traveled in the ruts worn into the ground by other buggies making it easiest to go exactly the way all the other buggies have gone before. We use the idiom "being stuck in a rut" to refer to a type of boring, habitual behavior.

Spiritually, do you find yourself being "stuck in a rut"? Do you find yourself not growing spiritually, but instead just "going through the motions" in your walk with God?

The prophet Zephaniah prophesied during the days of King Josiah of Judah (Zephaniah 1:1). King Josiah was a righteous king who instituted many great reforms in trying to bring Judah back to the Lord's ways (2 Kings 22:1-23:25). It is believed by many scholars that the ministry of Zephaniah helped to encourage these reforms by King Josiah.

However, King Josiah's father, Manasseh, had done much evil and provoked God's wrath as he worshipped idols, engaged in child sacrifice, and even had the audacity to set up idols in God's Temple at Jerusalem (2 Kings 21:1-9). As the opening verses above indicate, during Manasseh's reign God's people had become "settled in complacency". They no longer respected or feared God, but said in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will He do evil" (Zephaniah 1:12). Through Zephaniah's ministry God was going to make it very plain to them that they were dreadfully wrong in their thinking.

There was a "great day of the Lord" that was soon coming where God was going to show forth His terrible judgment upon those who had become complacent in their hearts (Zephaniah 1:14-18). God warns His people that they had better seek after Him before this event happens: "Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation, before the decree is issued, or the day passes like chaff, before the Lord's fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger comes upon you! Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger" (Zephaniah 2:1-3).

Some, like King Josiah, would heed this warning and be hidden from this great day of the Lord's wrath. Not only would these be hidden from God's wrath, but they would be part of a remnant of God's people that would once again enjoy God's blessings: "In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: 'Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing' " (Zephaniah 3:17).

I want the Lord to "rejoice over me with gladness", not to be disappointed with me because I have become "settled in complacency". I acknowledged it is very easy to become stuck in a spiritual rut. This is why it is essential that I strive daily to renew my mind spiritually (cf. Romans 12:1-2). Today, let's strive not to travel in the ruts into which others may fall, but allow God to direct us in His paths as we travel on the road that leads us closer to Him (cf. Jeremiah 6:16; Psalm 119:105).~Daily Devo, Susquehanna Valley church of Christ

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent."

(Rev. 3:19).

IN
OUR
PRAYERS