

Growing Conditions

Growing Conditions About 12 years ago a close friend gave my wife some saw tooth oak seedlings he brought back from Arkansas. We took them and planted them all over our place. One particular tree was planted out back near where we had burned brush while cleaning the place up after we bought the property. Another was planted out front near where the old railroad line used to run. The tree planted out back where the soil was rich with ashes and plant material immediately began to grow while the tree in the front didn't seem to grow at all. Now, after all these years the tree in the back is over 30 feet tall while the tree in the front planted in the rocks and clay struggles to top 12 feet even though the trees were planted at the same time. Jesus told a similar story about growing in Matthew 13. There He told of seeds being planted in different growing conditions and the results there of. Our spiritual growth is dependent upon the conditions we allow ourselves to live in and the everyday things we do. We must ask ourselves, "Am I feeding my spirit with God's word? Am I doing things which will grow my faith?" or "Am I slowing my spiritual growth by neglect and over exposure to things of the world?" By reading the bible daily, regular worship, and living a life full of love and good works will provide the necessary growing conditions for a healthy spiritual life. ~Jay Launius

How Big Is Your God

As human beings, we are limited to (and therefore, often focused upon) physical descriptions, physical measurements, physical time. However, one thing that we need to remember about our God is that He is not. He is not limited to physical anything, whether that be time or dimensions. What does that have to do with you today?

The Hebrew spies and the shepherd David saw giants, who were threatening to God's people (Num. 13:33; 1 Sam. 17:4). So what? Since our God is not limited by physical size, He is infinitely "bigger" than all of our problems! Jesus and the apostle Paul taught Christians to not worry about tomorrow or to be anxious about anything (Matt. 6:25-34; Phil. 4:6-7). Why not? Our God is not limited by physical time; thus, He is already "there" in our "tomorrow" and taking care of it for us!

Rather than limit our God, let us seek to appreciate and trust His magnitude and His majesty! ~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

October 17, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



Peacemakers

The beatitudes are what introduce the Sermon on the Mount. They serve as a framework or a starting place for the hearers of the message. They also serve as a reminder of the basic characteristics of a follower of God. They teach us so much about faith. They teach us how faith begins poor in spirit, with mourning and meekness. They teach us how faith grows, hungers and thirsts after righteousness. They teach us how faith matures merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers. They also teach us how faith is tested by persecution. Among them is the concept of a peacemaker. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matt. 5:9).

What does it mean to be a peacemaker, and how does it affect our lives? A peacemaker is a person who is actively seeking to establish and maintain peace. They don't make war or create conflicts with others. They seek to resolve conflicts and eliminate all hostility. They have a positive force for good and all that is profitable for mankind. Peacemakers are those who demonstrate peace in their lives. In that, they are at peace with God. "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). Sin separates us from God and makes us enemies. "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (Jas. 4:4).

Peacemakers are at peace with others. "So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another" (Rom. 14:19). "Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you" (2 Cor. 13:11).

Peacemakers are at peace with themselves. "My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you" (Prov. 3:1-2). "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Col. 3:15).

The ultimate work of God is making peace between Himself and mankind. "Now the God of peace be with you all" (Rom. 15:33). If God is with us, He can help us maintain peace. "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (Rom. 16:20a). God resolves the war to bring peace to our lives. "The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you" (Phil. 4:9). Our trusting obedience in following His teachings will produce peace in our lives. We need to do our part to maintain the peace He has blessed us with and also show others the way of peace.

~Josh Blackmer

<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	<i>When the Son of Man comes in all His glory, and all his angels with him, then he will sit on His glorious throne.</i>

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

<i>Adult Bible Classes</i> Sunday a – 2 Samuel Wed p – Minor Prophet	<i>Young Adults class-</i> Teen Room (led by Danny Mendoza)	<i>Ladies Class</i> (Contact Sandi Gray for information)
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Gerald Funnell seriously damaged his ankle and lower leg. He had surgery to correct the damage. He is in rehab in Kennewick Life Care center for some rehab as he heals.

Keep **Jim Preston** in your prayers (and Holly) as he is continuing to struggle with vertigo and severe migraine headaches and is not responding to the treatments and medicines tried so far.

Eunice Petross, remember that she broke her hip and required surgery, and was in a care facility for quite some time now.. As of last Sunday, Eddie said she would be coming home on Thursday. My understanding is that there will some in home assistance for a while as she continues her recovery.

Sandi Gray found out this week that she will need a second surgery on her arm for dialysis preparation. That will take place in November. This is the second part of a two-part procedure. This is to prepare for dialysis while she is stable and healing well, should the need arise.

Casey Rice arrived this week and will begin working with this morning. We will have our fellowship meal after services today to afford us a chance to get to know him better AND to visit with **Dustin McCrickard** who helped him drive up here and unpack. Dustin will be here until about Tuesday, so make plans to visit with him, too.

IN OUR PRAYERS

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 Work of the Church

The Lord’s church was planned before the world was ever created (Eph. 3:10-11) and then Christ came and purchased and established His church in the first century (Acts 20:28). Man certainly has a lot of ideas about the church—what it is, what its purpose is, what its work should be, etc. In many instances, churches have become major businesses or even country clubs or entertainment venues. What does the Bible say is the work of the Lord’s church?

First and foremost, the work of the church is to evangelize the lost world. The church has no greater purpose than this. This was the work that Jesus focused Himself upon during His lifetime (Luke 19:10; Matt. 20:28), and it is the work that He gave to His followers (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). While this work can be done collectively as a congregation, each member of each congregation is individually responsible for taking the saving power of the gospel to the lost souls around them (2 Tim. 2:2; Rom. 1:14-16; 1 Cor. 9:16). Every endeavor of the church must focus on evangelism.

Second, the work of the church is to edify members of the church. So, first, the church must look without, to those who are lost, and strive to teach them and bring them into the church. Then, the church must look within, to build up those who are members of the church (1 Thess. 4:18; 5:11). There are those who are weak (Rom. 15:1), struggling (1 Thess. 5:14), in leadership (1 Thess. 5:12-13), dealing with loss (Jas. 1:27), young (Tit. 2:1-8), young in the faith (1 Pet. 2:2-3), etc. Of course, every member needs to be encouraged and built up, whether they fit in a certain category or not. Again, a congregation can edify collectively through events, but it is also an individual Christian’s responsibility.

Third, the work of the church is to extend benevolence to those in need. Remember that the first work of the church is to teach and save lost souls, so every effort of the church (including every benevolent effort of the church) should focus on helping people get to heaven. While there is a responsibility to “remember the poor” (Gal. 2:10) and to “do good to all” (6:10), God gives attention “especially to those who are of the household of faith” (6:10) and to widows and orphans (Jas. 1:27). Obviously, the church cannot help everyone with every financial problem and the church is not an open bank with free money for all—the church must use prudence and wisdom in helping others. As with every work of the congregation, each member has an individual responsibility in this regard (Eph. 4:28).

The Lord established His church and gave clear work for her to do. Let us busy ourselves in these areas of His work! ~David Sproule

For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. They day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts. (Malachi 4:1 – 3)