

**God's Grace**

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

After these forty-two years of ministry, I have learned two important things. First, God’s servants are totally dependent upon the grace of God. God’s grace or favor provides far more than forgiveness. God shapes and molds us into the kind of people that He wishes us to be.

In Philippians 1:6 Paul wrote, “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Yes, God expects us to use the talents and abilities He gives us, but we should never forget that every good gift comes from Him (James 1:17). Paul urges us, “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12–13).

Second, we are wholly dependent upon the kindness of God to provide for our needs and the needs of this ministry. God does not send us into His vineyard empty-handed and ill-equipped. God’s grace abounds so that we have all sufficiency in all things at all times for every good deed. When faithful Christians ask, God answers; when they seek, He helps them find; and when they knock, the Lord opens the door. God truly answers prayer (Matthew 7:7-9).~Phil Sanders

**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:**

September 29, 2019

**Kennewick  
Church of Christ**



**The Measure for Which You are Judged**

What exactly did Jesus mean, when He said: “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven... For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:37-38)?

Bill McCaughan, in the April, May, June, 2019 issue of Power For Today (© 2019 by 20th Century Christian Foundation) answers the question this way: “For me, this is one of the most disturbing statements Jesus ever made. Why? Because it says to me that if I do judge, I will be judged – by my own set of rules. If I do condemn, I will be condemned – by my own set of criteria. If I hold a grudge and fail to forgive – I won’t be forgiven, because I said – by my own actions – that I didn’t want forgiveness.” He is absolutely correct!

Every time we fail to give someone the benefit of the doubt; each time we hang onto all the hurtful little comments someone might’ve made (whether they intended them to be hurtful or not); every time we fail to let go of a wrong suffered (whether real or imagined, actual or only personally perceived in our own minds) we are giving God the exact standard by which we are telling Him we want to be judged. In other words, we are demanding of Him that on Judgment Day, He not give us any benefit of the doubt for anything. We are demanding that God hang onto and judge us for every hurtful little comment we may have ever made to anyone over the course of our life on earth – even if it was purely innocent and unintentional on our part! We are leaving God with no option whatsoever but to judge us just as harshly for every time we ever wronged anyone – or even if anyone ever perceived in their own hearts that we had somehow wronged them – even when we hadn’t! What a terribly scary thought to add to an already terrifying day! And yet, it is true (Matt. 6:12-15, 18:21-35; Lk. 6:37-38).

What is the answer then? As brother McCaughan concludes: “Love each other! Love covers a multitude of sins, of hurts, of perceived wrongs (1 Corinthians 13 [See also 1 Ptr. 4:8]). It covers them up – pulls the tarp right over them so they can’t see the light of day; so they can’t remind us to be upset or resentful... If a Jewish zealot (Simon) could love a Roman tax collector (Matthew), I, too, can love that person who bruised my ego. I can because Jesus and His love can fill me.”

What measure do you want God to use on you? You tell Him every day by the measure you use on others (See Rom. 2:17-24). This is why we must learn to forgive the offender, let go of the hurt we’ve been holding onto, and just live a life of love like we are commanded and empowered by God to do (Eph. 4:31-5:2; Col. 3:8-15), letting Him take care of everything else in the end (Rom. 12:14-21; Heb.10:28-31) ~Doug Dingley



Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against fesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand firm. (Ephesians 6:10-13)

Open Congregational meeting – 2nd Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome

Attendance 09/22 65

Budget \$2400.33

Contribution 09/08 \$2837.00

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| <b>Keep These Dates in Mind</b>  | <b>September Birthdays and Anniversaries</b>  |  |   |
| 09/01 First Sunday Potluck<br>09/08 Open Congregational Meeting 5p<br>09/14 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship<br>10/06 First Sunday Potluck<br>10/12 Men's breakfast and fellowship<br>10/13 Open Congregational Meeting 5p | Craig & Debbie Bolt 9/1<br>Jack Danley 9/18<br>LaVeda Brumfield 9/22                        |  |   |
| <b>Today's Speaker:</b><br><b>Danny Mendoza</b><br>Speakers scheduled for this month:<br>9/1 – Clarence Botts<br>9/8 – Al Lindsay<br>9/15 – Danny Mendoza<br>9/22 – Joe Botts<br>9/29 – Leonard Peters                   | <b>Bible Studies</b>  |  |   |
|  | <b>Adult Bible Classes</b><br>Sunday am.–Genesis<br>Wed pm – Shadows &<br>Types in the O.T. | <b>Youth Classes</b><br>Classroom Wing<br><b>Teen Class -</b><br>Teen Room | <b>Ladies Class</b><br>Th. 10-11:30am<br>Resumes<br>9/12/2019 |

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and all your might.**

**Issues (ongoing):** Karen McBurney, Shirley Childers, Marji Lindholm, Marilyn Davis, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington, Karen McBurney's father and brother, .

**There will be a wedding reception for Joe and Katie Botts today after morning services. There will be a money tree in lieu of presents.**

There will be a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday singing in Walla Walla at 3:00pm. See Clarence Botts or Allen Lindsay for details on how to get there.



**At that time, the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 18:1-4)**

**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)

**Petu 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** - Our food pantry is located in the small room next to the library.  
 "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

**Austin and Kennadie McCrickard** – Bear Valley Bible Institute  
 "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

**Paul Committed to the Lord**

When Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, he knew the end was near. He looked back over his life and used two illustrations from the Grecian games to describe it. He mentioned fighting (wrestling or boxing) and racing. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (4:6). It is at times like this that a man reflects on how his life has been spent. It is a time for self-evaluation.

Look at his words in chapter one. He urged Timothy to never be ashamed of the gospel nor of Paul. "Share with me in the sufferings for the gospel" (1:8). Four verses later he mentions his suffering again. "For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed..." Throughout much of his life he had been despised, mocked, blasphemed, beaten and imprisoned. The world looks at such men with contempt, yet Paul was not ashamed.

How could this be? Read the rest of this verse. "For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day." Just what had he committed to the Lord? Take time to consider the following thoughts as if you knew your life was about to end and then reflect back on it. What have you committed to the safekeeping of God until the day of judgment?

He had committed to the Lord his choice to suffer shame at the hands of men for Him to recompense on the final day.

He had committed his soul to the Lord. That eternal spirit was about to depart from his body, and he had loved the Lord with all of his heart and soul. He believed the Lord knew this and would keep it until the end.

He had committed his body as a living sacrifice and it was offered on the altar of service. Now the time had come for his life to be sealed with his own blood. With absolute confidence he knew he would be vindicated someday.

He had committed the future into God's hand and while there was much uncertainty about that future, he knew Who held the future. "I know whom I have believed..." He may not have known the "what," but he knew the Who!

He had committed all that there was to Him who was able. On this earth there were times when Paul was bound and helpless because there were those who were able to do this to him. Yet Paul knew that their power was nothing compared to the power of the Almighty. There is no comparison to be made between the two. Those Roman soldiers thought they were able to control Paul's future. He knew better.

How deep is your commitment to the Lord? How much of yourself or your life belongs to Him? ~Dan Jenkins



**Whatever the Cost**

The film Paul, Apostle of Christ takes an unflinching look at persecution in the early days of the church. Even the movie's minor characters reveal how dangerous it was to follow Jesus. Consider these roles listed in the credits: Beaten Woman; Beaten Man; Christian Victims 1, 2, and 3.

Identifying with Christ often came at a high cost. And in much of the world, it's still dangerous to follow Jesus. Many in the church today can relate to that kind of persecution. Some of us, however, may feel "persecuted" prematurely—outraged any time our faith is mocked or we suspect we were passed over for a promotion because of our beliefs.

Obviously, there's a colossal difference between sacrificing social status and sacrificing our lives. Realistically, though, self-interest, financial stability, and social acceptance have always been intense human motivators. We see this in the actions of some of Jesus's earliest converts. The apostle John reports that, mere days before Jesus's crucifixion, although most Israelites were still rejecting Him (John 12:37), many "even among the leaders believed" (v. 42). However, "They would not openly acknowledge their faith . . . for they loved human praise more than praise from God" (vv. 42-43).

Today we still face societal pressures (and worse) to keep our faith in Christ hidden. Whatever the cost, let's stand together as a people who seek God's approval more than human praise. ~Tim Gustafson