

August 2, 2026

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly in Sardis

We continue our look at the seven churches of Asia which received John's message from the island of Patmos. There were far more congregations than these seven for Paul's work resulted in the spread of the gospel throughout all of Asia (Acts 19:10). God specifically chose these seven churches to help all other individuals and churches to profit from these messages (Rev. 3:6)

The city of Sardis. It was located on the western boundary of the Roman province of Asia and played an important role in the commerce of that area. These two truths enabled it to become a wealthy "frontier" city. Think of the history of America and the vice often connected with such cities as our nation spread to the west. The wealth caused many to focus on material matters rather than on matters of far more importance.

The church in Sardis as it appeared to others. Jesus does not look at outward appearances at the truth. He said to the church in Sardis, "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive" (Rev. 3:1). He then adds these words showing He is not concerned with reputation with character, "But you are dead." The view of this church in the eyes of men is far different from the way Jesus saw the "great" church at Sardis.

The church at Sardis as it appeared to Jesus. Having said that he said, "You are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God" (v. 2). While the English word perfect is used to indicate being totally complete and flawless, the Greek word is far different. As a child, I read the words of Jesus that we should be perfect as God is perfect and knew I could never do this for I could never be sinless. When God speaks of perfection, He uses this Greek word to indicate maturity and growth. We look at our newborn and see them as being perfect, even though they cannot walk or feed themselves. Babies in Christ can be viewed in the same way, and God wants us to keep growing into the fulness being like Jesus (Eph. 4:13).

The absence of the "good" and the "bad" in Sardis. There was still hope for the church, but it was fading. Jesus said that if they did not repent His judgment was coming (v. 3). Their future was "ugly." There was hope for some in that church, and the Lord told them to continue in faithful service. If they did, they would walk with Him clothed in white garments.

Some names in Sardis to remain in the book of life. There is a difference between having a name in a church directory and a name in the book of life. That book contains the names of those whose names are recorded in heaven and, if they remain faithful, their names will not be blotted out. Is your name still in that book? ~Dan Jenkins

Keep these Dates in Mind	Birthdays and Anniversaries	
08/02 Monthly Potluck 08/08 Men's Business Mtg. 9:00a 08/10 Hand & Foot Get Together 08/30 5 th Sunday Singing	Debra Bolt 8/8 Doreen Martinez 8/12 Danny Mendoza 8/13 Darrell McLaughlin 8/14 Kyle & Naomi McCown 8/16	Ellie Woodward 8/21 Julianna Woodward 8/24 Harvey & Lynette Jones 8/25 Bonnie Johnson 8/28
5th Sunday Singings	Bible Studies	
Aug 30 – Hermiston Nov 29 - Kennewick	Adult Bible Classes (Fellowship Hall) Sunday am (9:30a) – Titus Wed pm (7:00p) - Amos	Ladies Class Ladies class - Classes begin again in September

For us to remember:

- **Tami Pennington, Sandi Gray, Bill Lafferty, Linda Lafferty, Paul Mays, Joe Marcotte, Lupe Mendoza, Jim Preston, Doreen Martinez, Rod Gillespie**
- **Jonnie Marcotte** – is in rehab as she recovers from hip surgery. She is in Richland Rehab room 314 bed 2
- **George Bills** (Gary and Linda Bill's son) it was determined he needs a heart transplant. Keep them in your prayers as they work through all that is involved in this
- **Tony and Queca Woods** are going to Peru on a mission the last two weeks of August. Keep them in your prayers as they spread God's word in Peru.
- **Seth Hass** (Friend of Chase) – had a stroke in his brain stem. Keep him in your prayers as he recovers
- **Wanda Danley** – As she recovers from a broken foot. Please pray for her recovery.
- **Pat Lindsay** – is home again and should be here today Thank you for all the prayers on her behalf.
- **Linda Bills** – had hip replacement surgery this week. Last update was all went well and she is recovering. Keep them in your prayers as they deal with her hip and George's heart issues.
- **Doris Pennington** – in addition to her breathing issues is experiencing a great deal of hip pain. Please keep her in your prayers as she struggles with her health.

Date	Opening Prayer	Song Leader	Communion Thought (Devotional)	Lord's Supper	Closing Prayer
This week	H. Jones	L. Moore	J. Danley	G. Keever J. Wilson	D. McLaughlin
Next Week	J. Danley	D. Mendoza	J. Wilson	G. Keever L. Moore	B. Lafferty

Religious Truth

As Jesus taught the multitudes, some would come to believe in him and others would reject him. To those who believed in him, he said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8.31ff). We have here the emphatic statement that one can know truth. This ought to resolve the question for every honest soul. For every idea, logical consequences come with that idea, and these consequences are sometimes positive and sometimes negative. The consequences resulting from the idea that we cannot know the truth are that we cannot be free as Jesus promised. Furthermore, to abide in his word would be impossible since we cannot know the truth, and if we cannot know the truth, then we cannot know if we are abiding in truth (i.e., his word). Since words convey truths or lies, they compel the honest soul to read and understand, thus allowing the soul to become a disciple and further abiding in his word.

Paul, writing to the brethren in Ephesus, observed that it was only by the revelation of God through Paul that the mystery of Christ was attainable. He says, "You can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ." Paul further points out that this mystery was not known to other generations but it has been revealed through the apostles and prophets by means of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual truth cannot be known without the revelation of God. What was this mystery that other generations were not told about? "This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel" (Eph. 3.1-6). It behooves the reader to ask, "If truth is unattainable, how did the Gentiles ever discover they are fellow heirs in Christ?" Clearly, God intended for them to understand the mystery since God revealed it through the pen of Paul.

Jesus once prayed, "Sanctify them in the truth, your word is truth" (John 17.17). Why would God give us the truth, pray that that very truth sanctifies us (set us apart), yet know good and well we could never understand it? Can God, the creator of all things communicate with his creature? Those who seek their own will want us to understand them when they tell us that we cannot understand the bible, but they think God is incapable of the ability to communicate his thoughts to us. Paul calls this foolishness, "Therefore, do not be foolish but understand what the will of The Lord is" (Eph. 5.17). According to the apostle Paul, the idea of truth being unattainable is foolish.

Any passage that implies learning implies that there is truth and that it can be understood since it can be taught. Paul wrote, "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3.16-17). For this very reason, Paul gives a charge that we preach the word! That we do so in readiness both in season and out of season. Indeed, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Rom. 10:15). ~Rick Harrison

Wednesday Night Devotional

Date	Song leader	Devotional	Date	Song leader	Devotional
08/05	L. Moore	J. Wilson	09/02	C. Sullins	J. Wilson
08/12	C. Sullins	H. Jones	09/09	D. Mendoza	H. Jones
08/19	L. Moore	D. Mendoza	09/16	L. Moore	D. Mendoza
08/26	D. Mendoza	D. McLaughlin	09/23	H. Jones	L. Moore

A T S B A Y R A M N I G R I V
 P L O O S R N A T H A N A E L
 O A U L S U T Y L O P P I H E
 L L P C A T R E A U R O E C P
 L A R E I E H A M H K N U A A
 O D I E N U Z E Z A O E S L P
 S G S L T I S E N A S S E I H
 D A C T J E C O H E L I B S R
 I M I S O A P O F T S P I T O
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 P R O C H O R U S O I U E I U
 L A F O R T U N A T U S S N S
 E M L I N U S A I N T A N N E

Apollos, Apostle, Artemas,
 Calistas, Disciple, Epaphroditus,
 Eusebius, Fortunatus,
 Hippolytus, James, Lazarus,
 Linus, Lucius of Cyrene, Luke,
 Mary of Magdala, Nathanael,
 Nicodemus, Onesiphorus, Paul,
 Priscilla, Prochorus, Saint Anne,
 Saint Joseph, Simon Peter,
 Simon the zealot, Sosthenes,
 Virgin Mary

Door Access			
May	Joe Wilson	Sep	Darrell Mc Laughlin
Jun	Gary Keever	Oct	Danny Mendoza
Jul	Chase Sullins	Nov	Harvey Jones
Aug	Larry Moore	Dec	Vern Engelke

Kennewick Church of Christ

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Church Email: kenncoc@gmail.com

Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 6:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Minister: Chase Sullins

Attendance 07/26 48 Contribution 07/26 \$1786.00