



### Women's Fellowship

**Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Class**  
10:00 -11:30 am.  
Study is in Acts.

**Ladies Hand & Foot Card Fellowship:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. Play begins at 1:00pm.  
Card Fellowship will begin on the second Tuesday this month.

### OutReach

#### *Christ's Closet*

Free Clothing for anyone in need. Open Wednesdays 9:00 – Noon.

Please bring men and boys clothing. There is a need for any men's clothing.

#### *Mountain States Children's Home*

Remember to bring supplies for the children's home box. Bring Non-Perishable Items.

#### *Food Pantry*

The pantry is located in the room left of the library. There are sacks in the pantry room if you or someone you know is in need of any of these items. Feel free to take what you need. If you have a donation for the pantry please put it on the table in the pantry room.

#### *Peru Ministry*

Support Oscar, Anna Maria, Queca and Tony Woods in their outreach in Peru.

### **Kennewick Church of Christ**

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

Website: [www.kennewickcoc.com](http://www.kennewickcoc.com)

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ  
Church Email: [kencoc@gmail.com](mailto:kencoc@gmail.com)

#### **Meeting times:**

Sunday :  
Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am  
Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday:  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

#### **Elders:**

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; [ccbotts@hotmail.com](mailto:ccbotts@hotmail.com)  
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; [vern.engelke@gmail.com](mailto:vern.engelke@gmail.com)

#### **Deacon:**

Ken Merrick: 509-994-7813

#### **Minister:**

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

Open Congregational meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome.

January 1, 2017



### David's Cry for Purity

We ought to be very thankful that the Bible never conceals the faults of its noblest men. David stands high among the highest of these. His words have been for ages the chosen expression for the devotions of the holiest souls; and whoever has wished to speak longings after purity, lowly trust in God, the aspirations of love, or the raptures of devotion, has found no words of his own more natural than those of the poet-king of Israel. And this man sins, black, grievous sin. Self-indulgent, he stays at home while his army is in the field. His moral nature, relaxed by this shrinking from duty, is tempted, and easily conquered. The sensitive poet nature, to which all delights of eye and sense appeal so strongly, is for a time too strong for the devout soul. One sin drags on another. As self-indulgence opened the door for lust, so lust, which dwells hard by hate, draws after it murder. The king is a traitor to his subjects, the soldier untrue to the chivalry of arms, the friend the betrayer of the friend. Nothing can be blacker than the whole story, and the Bible tells the shameful history in all its naked ugliness.

Many a precious lesson is contained in it. For instance, It is not innocence which makes men good. 'This is your man after God's own heart, is it?' runs the common, shallow sneer. Yes; not that God thought little of his foul sin, nor that 'saints' make up for adultery and murder by making or singing psalms; not that 'righteousness' as a standard of conduct is lower than 'morality'; but that, having fallen, he learned to abhor his sin, and with deepened trust in God's mercy, and many tears, struggled out of the mire, and with unconquered resolve and strength drawn from a divine source, sought still to press towards the mark. It is not the attainment of purity, not the absence of sin, but the presence and operation, though it be partial, of an energy which is at war with all impurity, that makes a man righteous. That is a lesson worth learning.

Again, David was not a hypocrite because of this fall of his. All sin is inconsistent with a religious character. But it is not for us to say what sin is incompatible with a religious character.

Again, the worst sin is not some outburst of gross transgression, forming an exception to the ordinary tenor of a life, bad and dismal as such a sin is; but the worst and most fatal are the small continuous vices, which root underground and honeycomb the soul. Many a man who thinks himself a Christian, is in more danger from the daily commission, for example, of small pieces of sharp practice in his business, than ever was David at his worst. White ants pick a carcass clean sooner than a lion will.

Most precious of all is the lesson as to the possibility of all sin being effaced, and of the high hopes which even a man sunk in transgression has a right to cherish, as to the purity and beauty of character to which he may come. What a prayer these clauses contain to be offered by one who has so sinned! What a marvelous faith in God's pardoning love, and what a boldness of hope in his own future, they disclose! They set forth a profound ideal of a noble character; they make of that ideal a prayer; they are the prayer of a great transgressor, who is also a true penitent.

*-MaLauren*

Attendance 12/25 A.M. Worship: 60 / Budget: \$2000.00 / Contribution 12/25: \$3075.00

### ***Keep these Dates in Minds:***

- 1/1 First Sunday potluck has been cancelled for January
- 1/14 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship
- 1/15 Open Congregational Meeting at 5:00p
- 1/18 Soup Night 6:00p before Wed Bible Study
- 1/27 Game Night 6:00p
- 1/29 Open Congregational Meeting at 5:00p
- 2/5 First Sunday potluck
- 2/11 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship

### ***Bible Studies:***

- Adult Class (S) – Hebrews; (W) – Romans - Fellowship Hall
- Young Adults (S, W) – Acts - Spanish Room
- Youth Classes – Classroom Wing

*(16) But where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing is there. (17) But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. (18) Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (James 3:16-18)*

### **We Are What We Live**

Worldly wisdom produces trouble - envy, strife, and disorder that comes from instability and works that are worthless and of no account (James 3:16). Not only must we avoid worldly wisdom as individuals but must also avoid it as a congregation of God's people. Battles among so-called Christians, church splits, operating the church according to business principles instead of God's word and the absence of purity and peace point out that "something" is wrong - would not that "something" the absence of true wisdom?

God's wisdom produces blessing (James 3:18) - "And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." (RSV) Remember, this peace includes a right relationship between man and man. The seed can only be sown and flourish when this peace exists between the one sowing the seed and the fertile ground. Nothing good will grow in an atmosphere where men are at variance with one another. Mt. 5:9 reads: "Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God." With our verse under consideration is it any wonder that the peacemakers have such a close relationship with God the Father? Peace is a fruit of righteousness and it becomes the field in which righteousness and all that comes from righteousness flourishes. Christ is our peace through whom we are reconciled to God. (Eph. 2:14: "For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility." RSV) His peace is available through keeping his commandments and includes peace within ourselves, with one another and with God.

We are what we live and what we live is what we sow! Living by man's wisdom will sow sin and strife and we will reap confusion and worthless works. Living by God's wisdom will sow righteousness and peace; we will reap God's blessings.

God hates a troublemaker! (Read Prov. 6:16-19) Lot followed the wisdom of the world and his holdings literally went up in smoke. Abraham based his decision on God's wisdom and his choice eventually led to blessings upon the whole world!

***-Carey Dillinger***

***"Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding." (Proverbs 3:3)***



**Health Issues:** Pam Fox's grandson, Canaco & Eli , Abigail Jones, Karen McBurney, Dustin Stecker, Doris Pennington, Betty VanVoorst, Logan Johnson (Amanda McCrickard's friend's son), Bob Childers, Eddie Petros, Gayle Caldwell, Frank Shaw.

**Need Prayers:** Will Crow and his wife

**In the Military:** Levi Toombs

**Hayden Smith's Memorial** is February 11, 2017 at Richland Church of Christ. Details to follow

### **Blessed Are . . .**

#### **The pure in heart (5.8)**

Jesus addresses those who are "pure in heart". This phrase does not suggest someone who is sinless, but rather, refers to those who act with loyalty, integrity, and from pure motives. Psalm 24 talks about the man with a pure heart being someone who does not devote himself to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. So these are people who are genuine and transparent and do not operate out of deviousness or ulterior motives.

Have you ever known people who were supposedly your friend, but you weren't sure that you could trust them? Or maybe people who did nice things for you, but you weren't sure you could trust their motives because they might be doing it only to get something in return? This is the opposite of being "pure in heart."

Jesus calls those who are pure in heart blessed, and said that they will see God.

#### **The peacemakers (5.9)**

Jesus says that God's favor rests upon those who make peace; God cares deeply about peace. "Peace" is something that is talked about a lot, but it is important for us to realize that peace is a word that is used to convey different ideas, and we need to make sure that we have a clear picture of what Jesus is talking about here.

During the time that Jesus lived, the Roman Empire enjoyed the *Pax Romana*, or, "Roman Peace." The *Pax Romana* lasted for several decades, and was a time of stability in the Empire in which there was relative peace and no major wars. This peace was made possible only through brutal military conquest, the forced subjugation of conquered peoples, and the confiscation of their land.

This is not the kind of peace that Jesus is talking about; He does not call for His followers to make peace through military might. Furthermore, in the Bible, "peace" is not simply the absence of war; it suggests wholeness and well-being, healthy and just relationships with one another. Related to that, biblical peace—wholeness, justice, healthy relationships—does not come from pretending problems don't exist. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and He came to make reconciliation with God possible, but He didn't gloss over the reality of sin; He confronted people with it, and was killed as a result.

Jesus wants His followers to be people who actively work to bring about peace in their relationships and in their communities. We are not to be people who go around trying to stir up strife, but neither are we to pretend that no strife exists. Instead, we should be people who try to get along with others and bring about real reconciliation in situations where people are at disharmony with one another.

Peacemakers are called children of God because they are *like* God. God's supreme mission is to bring about reconciliation in the world, and when we act as peacemakers, we engage in that same mission.

***-Luke Dochery***