



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

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ
Church Email: 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
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; vern.engelke@gmail.com

Deacon:

Ken Merrick: 509-994-7813

Minister:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

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

January 8, 2017

Welcome to the Kennewick Church of Christ

The God of All Comfort

By any estimation 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 frames the Bible's greatest text on comfort. The word "comfort" occurs no less than ten times in its noun and verb forms in this brief paragraph — essentially one-third of all thirty-one occurrences in the New Testament. Paul says more about suffering, and more about comfort, than any other writer in the Bible. And it is here that he says the most about it. There is a reason for this, and it was to answer critics who held that the sufferings that characterized Paul's life were evidence that he was not an apostle, because if he was the real thing he wouldn't be experiencing so much trouble. Paul's answer was that abundant suffering and abundant comfort are in fact signs of apostolic authenticity.

In 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 Paul carefully crafts his words as he recasts the traditional opening words of the synagogue blessing in Christian terminology so as to celebrate God as the God of all comfort: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort" (v. 3). The first of the nineteen synagogue benedictions then in use began, "Blessed art thou, O Lord our God and God of our fathers, God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob. . . ." Paul takes it and identifies "the God of our fathers" as "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," thus testifying to the dramatic revelation of Christ to him on the Damascus road and his radical conversion. This Christianized Jewish blessing is original here in 2 Corinthians and appears also verbatim in Romans, Ephesians, and 1 Peter. In restating the synagogue blessing in Christian terms, Paul was evidently having a go at his Judaizing enemies, the fallen apostles in Corinth (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:22, 2 Corinthians 11:31). It was of the utmost importance for the apostle to establish in no uncertain terms that the God of Israel's patriarchs was the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The synagogue prayer of Paul's day described God as "The Father of Mercies," but here Paul enlarges it to include "and God of all comfort" — the first of the ten references to comfort contained in this short paragraph. Paul's intentionality is immense! Chapters 40 — 66 of Isaiah repeatedly speak of the comfort or consolation of the Messianic age. Isaiah 40 begins, "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem," and the final chapter, Isaiah 66, says, "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem" (Isaiah 66:13). So when Christ came, the devout, including Simeon and Anna, were "waiting for the consolation of Israel" (Luke 2:25) — salvation and comfort. It was and is through Christ that the comfort of God the Father comes. Here in our passage the idea of comfort is "to strengthen much," to encourage — to stand by another and encourage him as he endures testing. Paul wanted his hearers to understand that the merciful Father is the author of all possible comfort and consolation. There is no enduring comfort apart from him.

Paul's own heartfelt celebration of God was for his deliverance from deadly peril in Asia (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:8-11), and then the gentle comfort brought to him by the return of Titus with good news about the Corinthian church (cf. 2 Corinthians 7:6-7). For all this he passionately blessed God: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3).

-biblestudytools.com

Attendance 1/01 A.M. Worship: 65 / Budget: \$2000.00 / Contribution 1/01: \$1934.26

Keep these Dates in Minds:

- 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
- 2/15 Soup Night 6:00p before Wed Bible Study
- 2/25 Game Night 6:00p

Nearer my God to Thee! Nearer to Thee! E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me. Still all my song shall be nearer my God to thee. Nearer my God to Thee, nearer to Thee.

Bible Studies:

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries for January

- Hannah Minor 1/5
- Linda Lafferty 1/8
- Gayle Caldwell 1/12
- Holden Minor 1/15
- Henry Walker 1/18
- Larry Moore 1/19
- Mary Beth Walker 1/22
- Shirley Childers 1/24
- Eddie & Eunice Petross 1/24
- Loretta Slettene 1/26
- Mary Lewis 1/27
- Casey Berry 1/28

Our Source of Provision

In August 2010, the attention of the world was focused on a mine shaft near Copiapó, Chile. Thirty-three miners huddled in the dark, trapped 2,300 feet underground. They had no idea if help would ever arrive. After seventeen days of waiting, they heard drilling. Rescuers produced a small hole in the mine shaft ceiling, and that hole was followed by three more, establishing a delivery path for water, food, and medicine. The miners depended on those conduits to the surface above ground, where rescuers had the provisions they would need to survive. On day sixty-nine, rescuers pulled the last miner to safety.

None of us can survive in this world apart from provisions that are outside of ourselves. God, the Creator of the universe, is the one who provides us with everything we need. Like the drill holes for those miners, prayer connects us to the God of all supply.

Jesus encouraged us to pray, "Give us today our daily bread" (Matt. 6:11). In His day, bread was the basic staple of life and pictured all the daily needs of the people. Jesus was teaching us to pray not only for our physical needs but also for everything we need—comfort, healing, courage, wisdom.

Through prayer we have access to Him at any moment, and He knows what we need before we even ask (v. 8). What might you be struggling with today? "The Lord is near to all who call on him" (Ps. 145:18).

—Bill Crowder



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

Blessed Are . . .

Blessed are those who are persecuted (5.10-12)

Sometimes the last two Beatitudes are considered separately, and sometimes they are combined. Because they are so closely related, we will discuss them together. Both say that God's favor rests upon those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness or who suffer hardship on account of Jesus.

These verses do *not* indicate that we are to have a persecution complex, always imagining that people are mistreating us. Neither are we to go looking for persecution by behaving in ways that are over the top or offensive. However, if in the course of living as disciples of Jesus (by exhibiting the characteristics we have been talking about), we are persecuted or mistreated, Jesus says that we are blessed in this.

It might seem strange for us to think that simply by living the way Jesus calls us to, that we could face persecution. But it is important to remember that the values of Jesus' kingdom are completely at odds with the values of the world, and when we seek to live according to kingdom values, it threatens the way the world works. This was true for Jesus, who was ultimately killed by the Jews and Romans who were in power and were threatened by Him, and also for His disciples, many of whom were martyred for their faith.

Honestly, we don't have a very good understanding of what it means to be persecuted for our faith, because we live in a country that provides us with a great deal of religious freedom. However, in the early days of Christianity, Christians were often cast out of society, beaten, imprisoned, and even killed because of their faith, and this is still the reality for many Christians in the world today.

That is *not* our experience in the United States, and sometimes, I think we have become too attached to our persecution-free environment. To be clear, I enjoy the religious freedom that I have as a citizen of this country and am not eager for a day when I am persecuted for my faith, but sometimes I feel that Christians can get overly concerned and fearful about the possibility of us losing our religious freedoms and facing persecution. We need to remember that Jesus calls those who suffer for His sake blessed because they will be rewarded in heaven, and that heavenly reward empowers us to endure suffering in the present.

The characteristics that Jesus describes as blessed in the Beatitudes are shocking to us, because these values are so misaligned with the values of our own society. They would have been similarly shocking to Jesus' original audience. But these values are representative of those who are citizens of God's kingdom—an alternative community.

—Luke Dochery

(35) Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (36) Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." (37) But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:35-37)

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Psalms 34:18