

Ministers:  
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley  
217.493.8905

Sunday:  
8:00 AM: WGCY  
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:  
7:00 PM: Bible Study

[gibsoncitychurchof  
Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofChrist.com)

**This Past Week:**  
Worship—  
Wednesday—  
Contribution—\$

**For meditation:**  
**Proverbs 27.15–17**  
Just as an iron  
knife, plow, etc.,  
get blunted by  
use, so does the  
wear and tear of  
life take the  
“edge” off our  
soul. When this  
happens, what is  
the whetstone for  
our soul? What  
can restore our  
edge?

Radio program:  
WGCY FM, 106.3  
Sundays at 8 AM

## ***School shootings in Gen. 4***

**Cain rose up against Abel his brother  
and killed him. Genesis 4.8**

**When desire has conceived, it gives  
birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-  
grown, brings forth death,” James 1.15.**

Have you noticed that the mentality behind school shootings and mass murder is present in Genesis 4? The path that led Cain to kill Abel (Jude 11) is the same road traveled by those today who commit senseless atrocities, drive-by shootings, and genocide. It’s the same road because the progression/growth of sin is the same.

To embrace a sin can lead to an irritation with those who won’t join us in our sin. Left unchecked, this irritation can evolve into more virulent forms, such as hatred for those whose goodness exposes our wickedness. Left unchecked, hatred invariably results in killing (including by innuendo, character assassination, etc.) those who won’t aid and abet our evil.

The problem, says 1 John 3.12, is with the murderer, not the murdered. The victims of Bethlehem, Sandy Hook, Uvalde, etc. didn’t deserve to die; they died because a sinner allowed his sin to grow into a horrendous, monstrous cruelty. It’s all there in Genesis 4; the path Cain trod is the path all murderers travel.

When we surrender to lust/desire/sin, we can own it and repent or allow it to simmer, fester, and metastasize, pulling us deeper into hell. When that happens, our brother isn’t to blame, schoolchildren aren’t to blame; the one to blame is the inexcusably weak, moral coward who allowed his pet sin to grow.

kenny

# Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

**One evening an old Cherokee told his  
grandson about a battle that goes on inside  
all people.**

**“My son, there is a terrible battle between  
two wolves that exists inside us all.**

**“One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy,  
sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity,  
guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride,  
superiority, and ego.**

**“The other is good. It is joy, peace, love, hope,  
serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence,  
empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and  
faith.”**

**The boy thought about it for a moment and  
then asked his grandfather, “Which wolf  
wins?”**

**The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one  
you feed.”**

**Author Unknown**

Sermon: 1 Peter 3.7

## The godly husband

8 October 2023

## Failure at the foot of the mountain

It's a bad sign whenever Christ's enemies are glad and His disciples sad, but this is the situation that greeted Christ when He descended from the Mount of Transfiguration. A boy was dehumanized by an evil spirit, a father was distraught over his son's condition, disciples were defeated and at their wit's end, and a multitude was disillusioned and in danger of losing what little faith it had in Christ.

The scene that presented was of a crowd surrounding the nine disciples, who were being questioned by the scribes. "What's all the excitement about?" Christ asked (v 16). The father of the demonized boy answered immediately and in just a few words revealed a huge trouble: *your disciples failed!* "I brought my demon-possessed boy to them; they tried to cast out the demon, but *they could not*" (v 18).

And what accounted for the failure? It wasn't a lack of authority for Christ had given His disciples power over unclean spirits (6.7). And it wasn't a lack of experience, for the disciples had exorcised demons—"the demons are subject to us in Your name" (Lk. 10.17). The disciples' failure, according to Matthew, was due to a spiritual problem—a lack of faith (17.17).

My guess is that it all stemmed from consternation over Christ's prediction of His death (8.31). This shook them to where they possibly questioned what they had gotten themselves into. And such doubt would impact their ministry, for what a person can give depends on what he has. The power he exerts depends upon the power he has. Before a man can breathe hope into another, he must have hope in himself. Before he can lead another to faith, he must have full confidence in the faith. "According to your faith be it unto you" (Matt. 9.29). The spiritual vitality of the disciples was low, and they could do no mighty work because they possessed no spiritual energy. "O faithless generation, how long shall I bear with you?" (v 19).

When a Christian fails, the world likes to interpret it as Christ failing. Our failures are all the fodder the world needs to discredit Christ. When His people are not manifesting redeeming and regenerating power, it emboldens the enemy.

Our feebleness and weakness always gives the enemy cause to blaspheme.

kenny

## Impressions of Israel, 19

Once we crossed the border into Jordan, we boarded the van for the long ride south to the mysterious rock city of Petra—located about midway between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba. We arrived late at night and checked into a hotel that could have been a set for a 1930s Indiana Jones movie. The next morning we took a short ride to the edge of town where is found the great hollow in the earth that was ancient *Petra*. For me, it was the most spectacular stop on the trip.

It isn't certain that Petra is mentioned in the Bible. Many commentators identify it with the *Sela* (which means "rock") of Isaiah 16.1, but some archaeologists dispute this. There's no doubt, however, that Petra was within the Kingdom of Edom, and those who go there agree that Obadiah's prophecy concerning the cities of Edom has been fulfilled. "You who dwell in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high: you who say in your heart, Who will bring me down to the ground? . . . I will bring you down, says the Lord" (Obad. 3–4).



The English explorer Charles Doughty must have gotten up on the wrong side of the bed when he wrote of Petra, "Strange and horrible as a pit, in an inhuman deadness of nature, is this site of the Nabateans' metropolis" (*Travels in Arabia Deserta*, Vol. 1, 1888, 42). My impression of Petra is closer to its oft-repeated description as "a rose-red city half as old as Time."

And not the Turkish Air 777, the train from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the camel I rode on, or our air-conditioned van provided more fun than the two-mile donkey ride back to the entrance. Hi-yo Silver, Away!

kenny

## News about us

- It was a shock to read this morning's news and learn terrible fighting, rocket attacks, and massacres have engulfed Israel. I pray God will put an end to it soon, and that people I met (like Sando) are safe and out of harm's way.