

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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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—30
Wednesday—11
Contribution—\$

For meditation:
Proverbs 25.20–22
These verses
counsel on how
to help the sor-
rowing and our
enemies. What
can make one a
“miserable com-
forter” (Job
16.2)? How does
Paul use the
proverb in vv 21–
22?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

“No condemnation,” part 4

We aren’t right with God because we’re perfect. Both our self-condemnation (1 Jn. 3.20) and Scripture (1 Jn. 1.7, Lk. 17.10, etc.) tell us this. And how is it that God can fellowship those marred by imperfection and sin? By grace! It’s only on the basis of the truth that Christ receives AND fellowships sinful men that we can ever have the blessed assurance that Jesus is ours.

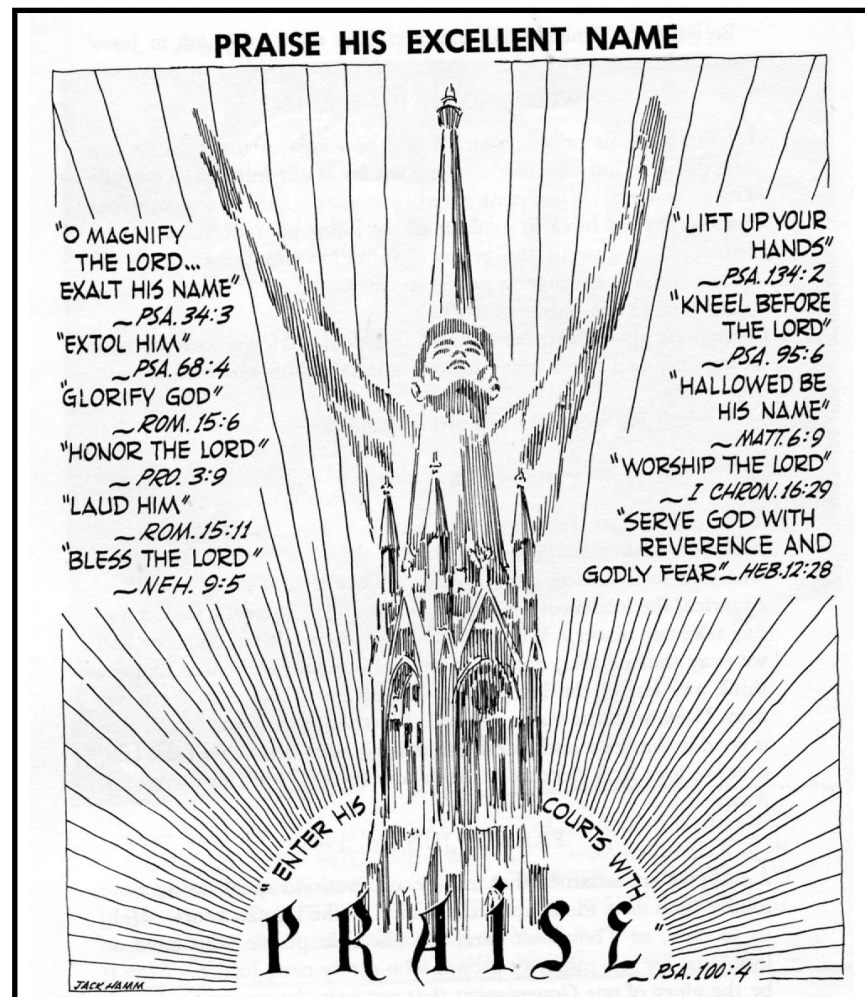
But let no one conclude from this that obedience to Christ is unimportant, unessential, or unnecessary. “Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? **God forbid!**” (Rom. 6.1). A condition of discipleship is that we “observe all things whatsoever the Lord commanded” (Matt. 28.20). This isn’t a demand for perfect obedience, but it is the expectation that the *directional thrust* of our life always reflect the obedience that comes from love (Gal. 5.6). This the expectation of every relationship. The married don’t expect their spouse to be perfect; parents don’t expect their kids to always be little darlings; we don’t expect our friends to be flawless in their friendship. But in each case we do expect the other to be lovingly inclined toward us. Even in times when it seems they aren’t, our love for them covers their shortcomings toward us (1 Pet. 4.8).

Love is the key (1 Cor. 13.1–3). A husband can bring flowers to his wife for many reasons, but it’s only when the flowers express his love that they count with his wife. When you love another, you aren’t afraid of what they’ll do to you but of what you might do to them. So you do, and endure, and serve those you love. God wants our obedience, but He only wants it if it is an expression of our love (Isa. 1.12ff).

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL



Sermon: 1 Peter 1.1–5

The Hope within Us

21 May 2023

The maniac

A man meant to be the temple of God had become the haunt of devils. But then he meets Christ, and he who was a raging maniac is returned to his right mind. Do you see the similarity in this and the miracle that ends Mark 4? In both cases, “a great calm” (4.39) resulted from the work of Christ; a storm was stilled and a demoniac was “no longer a walking madhouse” (Peterson). As stunning as was the miracle on the lake, which filled the disciples with awe (4.41), the saving of the Gadarene demoniac was greater; turning a sinner into a saint is a greater work than stopping a storm (Jn. 14.12).

THE MANIAC

Every area of human emphasis was ruined when hell got hold of the man. In regard to God, he was impure, full of unclean spirits; in regard to his neighbors, he was dissocialized/isolated, living in the tombs; in regard to himself, he was tormented, crying out and cutting himself with stones. The poor man illustrated what happens when Satan gets hold of us.

THE MAN

What all the chains of Gadara couldn’t accomplish, Jesus did by allowing the demons to leave the man and enter a herd of swine (v 12; be careful what you ask for). As a result, a change came to every area of his life that the devils had touched. In regard to God, he was no longer unclean; in regard to his neighbors he was self-controlled (“sitting,” v 15) and civilized (“clothed,” v 15); in regard to himself, he had regained control of his mind (v 15). The Gadarenes tried to restrain him; Christ restored him; the Gadarenes tried to deal with him from the outside; Christ dealt with him from the inside. The gospel works from the inside out to create a new man, so making peace (Eph. 2.15).

THE MISSIONARY

The story ends with some surprises. Instead of being told to leave his family/friends/home and follow Him (10.21, 29–30), Jesus tells the man to return to his own people; instead of telling him to keep silent (1.44, 3.12), Jesus tells him to spread the news. And this the man did (v 20). He didn’t go out dressed in clerical robes, and he hadn’t sat at the feet of any rabbi, but just by telling others what Christ had done for him, he did more good than all the rabbis in all the cities of the Decapolis put together.

There’s a lesson for us here, if we’ll pay attention.

kenny

Impressions of Israel, 1

The first four nights of my trip to Israel were spent atop the Mt. of Olives at the 7Arches Hotel. The Mt. of Olives is on the east side of Jerusalem, separated from the city by the steep Kidron Valley. Both Jews and Muslims believe the last judgment will occur here; subsequently, thousands of Muslims are buried on its west slope and even more Jews are buried on its east slope.

I came away with two strong impressions of the Mt. of Olives.

First, the Mt. of Olives is the greatest natural amphitheater in the world. From it you can see the city of Jerusalem laid out for view like a giant relief map. The temple mount (Mt. Moriah) and city of David (Mt. Ophel) are nearest to the Mt. of Olives, with Mt. Zion rising behind them to the west. There was no better seat in the house for watching the greatest story ever told than the Mt. of Olives.

Second, despite all the tombs, churches, and businesses that have been built, the Mt. of Olives, just like in the days of Jesus, is still a quiet spot away from the busyness and hubbub of Jerusalem. The Garden of Gethsemane is just down the slope from our hotel, aside the Jericho Road, and I’m glad to report that there are many places on the Mt. of Olives where one can get away for quiet prayer and meditation.

kenny



News about us

- Donna’s knee surgery is about two weeks away. Keep her in your prayers.
- Karen leaves tomorrow for a trip up to Michigan.