

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—32
Wednesday—13
Contribution—\$1475

For meditation:
Proverbs 25.25–26
Righteousness is
“soul elevation”;
it is the soul
“risen with
Christ.” What is
the result, per-
sonally and so-
cially, when a
righteous person
lapses into de-
pravity?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

“to me, to live is Christ”

Philippians 1.21

These words from Paul are:

Philosophical. *To live is Christ, to die is gain* summarizes all that needs to be said about a Christian’s philosophy.

Personal. To know *about* Jesus is not the same as knowing Jesus. Few men have enriched me more than Jim McGuiggan. Through his books and tapes, I knew *about* Jim long before I knew Jim. But about ten years ago, Jim and I began corresponding, eventually met, and became friends. The reality of having Jim as a friend I have spent time has been a blessing far beyond what I garnered from his books and tapes. Knowing about Jim was a blessing, but it was nothing compared to knowing Jim. It’s possible to know a great deal about Christ without Him being a reality/a living presence in our life. How real is Jesus to you?

Practical. “To live is Christ” means our life is influenced by and governed in every particular by the One we know, with the consequence that our life is immensely bettered. When our moments are spent with Him and matters are shared with Him, by grace He lifts us up to higher ground. To live is Christ is much more than a theological philosophy, it’s a reality influencing every aspect of our life.

Possible. This isn’t pie-in-the-sky silliness; to live is Christ can be the directional thrust of our life. Righteousness by legalistic perfection is impossible, but righteousness by trusting faith is within our reach, attainable (Rom. 10.6–7), and livable (Rom. 12.1–2) by all who call on the name of the Lord.

To live is Christ will make you more alive; to die will make you alive even more.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

HELPFUL CONSULTANT



Sermon: 1 Peter 1.3–6, “salvation ready to be revealed”

Curtain up!

4 June 2023

Demon possession

The curing of the Gadarene demoniacs, said Trench, was “the most important, and in many respects the most perplexing, of all the demoniac cures in the New Testament.” What, exactly, was demon possession? Does it still occur today? Does it occur today but under a different name?

Any mention of demon possession or exorcism always raises questions like these. Here are some of my thoughts.

First, different causes can have similar effects (lightning and lightning bugs both produce light); demon possession could manifest as a disease like epilepsy, but demons were a supernatural entity not a natural pathogen. (a) The Gospels distinguish between demon possession and disease (Matt. 4.24, 8.16, 10.8); blindness and an inability to speak can have a physical cause, but in Matthew 12.22 they result from demon possession. (b) Christ never spoke of a demon-possessed person as being sick or mentally unbalanced. (c) In cases of demon possession, Christ distinguished between the individual and the demon (Mk. 1.23–25); e.g., “This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting,” (Matt. 17.21). (d) The disciples spoke of demons as distinct from men (Lk. 10.17, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name”).

Second, why would Scripture speak of some people as being “demon-possessed” (Matt. 4.24, Mk. 5.18, etc.) if they weren’t? If they suffered from some form of mental problem, why not just say that?

Third, demon possession was a supernatural—not a natural—phenomena. It was the involuntary overwhelming of a person by an evil spirit. (Part of the value of the Gadarene demoniac story is that it shows even animals could be taken over by an evil spirit with irrational, counter-instinctive, and disastrous consequences.)

Finally, why were demons allowed to possess people? Surely, it was to show that evil is not a coequal power with good. Satan is not a god! There is only one God (Deut. 6.4) to whom all, including Satan, are subject (Job 1–2, Matt. 12.28–29, 1 Jn. 3.8).

Demons no longer possess people, but the devil does (Jn. 13.27, 2 Cor. 10.4–5). But Satan is no match for God. If you want to throw the devil out of your life, God can do it (Heb. 2.14–15), and He is always ready to help (Rom. 10.13).

kenny

Impressions of Israel, 3

I think everyone on our tour (put together by Scott Powell, Houston, TX) would agree that one of the highlights was walking through Hezekiah’s Tunnel.

While nearly all of old Jerusalem has perished, the tunnel of Hezekiah, one of the city’s earliest relics, exists today almost as it was in 700 BC when Hezekiah was king and “the Assyrian came down like a wolf on the fold” (Byron). Anticipating a siege, Hezekiah sealed up the only spring near the old city of David so that the Assyrians could not cut off Jerusalem’s water supply. In order to bring water inside the city, workmen cut a winding tunnel, 1,749 feet in length, about two feet wide, and that varied in height from about five to perhaps fifteen feet in places. Marks of the pickaxes used by the workmen can still be seen. The depth of the water varied from ankle deep to above my knees.

This waterway is mentioned in three places in the Bible (2 Kings 18, 2 Chron. 32, Isaiah 7). It may have been by means of the subterranean fissures in the rock that some of David’s soldiers were able to take the stronghold of the Jebusites (2 Sam. 5.6–8).

In 1880, a Hebrew inscription was found near the lower opening to tunnel that told how the tunnel was dug by excavators who worked from both ends and met in the middle. When they finished, “the water started flowing from the source to the pool, twelve hundred cubits.”

Should you ever get to Jerusalem, don’t miss Hezekiah’s Tunnel.

kenny



News about us

- Donna’s knee surgery is Wednesday. Tom has some upcoming tests and needs our prayers. Leroy’s back pain has returned; more tests are scheduled for him. These members of our family especially need our prayers at this time.