

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—34
Wednesday—10
Contribution—\$1615

For meditation:
Proverbs 26.6–9
What warning do
these verses give
about using a
fool for some
service or errand?
Should important
business be en-
trusted to untrust-
worthy people?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Get your head in the game **1 Peter 1.13**

Years ago, a friend who had multiple sclerosis told me, “The first thing that goes is your mind.” I’ve never forgotten his words because losing your mind to fear, terror, panic, paralysis, etc. is the first challenge we face whenever a nightmare comes true.

In 1 Peter 1.1–12, having introduced his epistle by speaking of God’s grace in salvation (vv 1–9) and God’s guidance in revelation (vv 10–12), Peter introduces the main body of his letter by speaking of the mind. His readers were about to face major upheavals; above all, they needed to keep their heads. To encourage such, Peter gives three admonitions.

USE YOUR HEAD

Gird up the loins of your mind. Getting ready for action begins with our thinking. God gave us a mind to think with, and He expects us to use it.

CLEAR YOUR HEAD

Be sober. Think realistically. Trouble is no time for believing delusions or lies.

LIFT YOUR HEAD

Rest your hope fully on the grace . . . In Romans 8.19, hope is called an “earnest expectation”—a Gr. word that literally means, “to lift the head and look away.” Hope is the ability to see something afar. Christians aren’t looking for the government to solve our problems or for doctors to find a medical panacea. Our hope is set on Christ, who will set things right when He returns. Set your mind on that.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

If “I’m a Christian but
I don’t need the church”
was a photo.



Sermon: 1 Peter 1.13–25

Savior & Sovereign

2 July 2023

A second chance

Then He went out . . . and came to His own country.

Christ leaves the area around Capernaum and, for a second time since the start of His public ministry, returns to Nazareth—that “beautiful village in the mountain nest.”

The Jews were proverbially narrow and bigoted. Between them and the Gentiles was a wide gulf. Samaria was so accursed that Jews traveling between Galilee and Judea would cross to the east side of the Jordan to avoid being contaminated by Samaria.

But the spirit of Jesus was different. On His first return to Nazareth, He talked about how a Gentile widow in the days of Elijah received special blessings from God and how in the time of Elisha God passed over all the lepers in Israel to heal a Gentile leper. It was all written down in their Bible, but like many religious people, the Nazarenes didn’t pay much attention to things in their Bible. Christ eulogizing a Sidonian widow and a Syrian general so infuriated them that they tried to kill Him in a gruesome way (4.16–30).

But again Christ returns. You would have thought He would have shaken the dust of Nazareth off His feet, but instead, He’s back. And in this is revealed a great characteristic of our Lord: He had a love that believed in giving men a second chance.

One day Christ said to His disciples, “Let us go to Judea again” (Jn. 11.7), and the disciples couldn’t believe what they were hearing. “Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You and are You going there again?” What are you thinking? They’ll kill You! But Christ was going back again because love gives men a second chance. Even after men throw us out of their synagogue, or over a cliff, or try to stone us, if our love is like our Lord’s, we’ll go back and give them another chance.

Here’s what I read: the Jews from Antioch “stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead” (Acts 14.19). But Paul gets up and goes back to Antioch (14.21). The city that tried to kill Paul is given another chance.

I along ago lost count of the chances I’ve been given. I who at times have thrown Christ out of my life, out of my home, and out of my church; I who have stoned Him, and sinned willfully and repeatedly against Him, keeps giving me another chance.

Is there anyone who needs another chance from you?

kenny

Impressions of Israel, 7

When our group left Jerusalem, we stopped at the Valley of Elah,

The Valley of Elah is an Israelite *Gettysburg*, an Old Testament *Appomattox*, the place where David killed Goliath (1 Sam. 17). You’d think there would be “Historical maker ahead” signs, and a visitor’s center staffed by a park ranger, and plenty of slick, four-color educational brochures. But there was none of that at the Valley of Elah. If our tour leader, Scott, hadn’t stumbled upon this place on one of his earlier trips, we likely would have missed it altogether.

The valley is maybe a half-mile across. On the north side is a steep ridge the Israelites occupied. On the south of the valley are some hills the Philistines occupied. Running along the bottom of the northern ridge is the brook where David picked up his five stones. Somewhere on the flat ground between the hills David slung a stone, and Goliath never knew what hit him.

The day our group was there, it was warm and sunny. The brook was dry, And there was maybe only one or two other tourists around. I’m glad there was no visitor’s center, park ranger, or slick brochures. Their absence made visualizing David’s victory that much easier.

kenny



The brook at the valley of Elah

News about us

- Keep Leroy and Betty, Jerry, Donna, Tom, Nancy, and others in your prayers.
- Colby is stranded in North Carolina, trying to return home from a vacation to Guatemala with his aunt.