

Ministers:
the congregation

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

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

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

This Past Week:
Worship—30
Wednesday—12
Contribution—\$1820

For meditation:
Ecclesiastes 1.15-18
What's the down
side of getting an
education? Why
isn't learning, the
acquisition of
knowledge, ac-
quiring wisdom
more satisfying?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Thoughts on temptation

TEMPTATION IS COMMON TO MAN

Temptation is not sin. I know this because Christ "was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." Being tempted doesn't mean we are bad people; it means we're important people, important enough for the devil to take notice of us. The danger with temptation is that it lives right next door to sin. And we go next door—from temptation to sin—when we allow our *lust* to respond to Satan's *lure*. When we allow our desire to bite the bait the devil dangles in front of us, sin conceives—a pregnancy results—that grows until it culminates in death . . . physically, spiritually, eternally.

TEMPTATION IS CONTROLLED BY GOD

This is the promise of 1 Corinthians 10.13. God knows exactly how much we can stand. He will not let us be pushed past our limit; He will not allow us to be tempted to excess. There is a great deal of reassurance in this promise for us.

TEMPTATION IS CONQUERABLE THROUGH CHRIST

I've been watching the Netflix documentary series *Churchill at War*, and was impressed by the fact that in the early days of World War II, Churchill understood that England's primary goal was to hang on until others, notably the United States, joined the fight. But that's not the case with us; in the good fight of faith, we're not just trying to hang on until the cavalry arrives, we have all we need, right now, to conquer (Rom. 8.37). This doesn't mean we will never be defeated; it does mean we never need be defeated.

In regard to temptation, a Christian never lacks what he needs.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

WHERE EROSION HAS NO EFFECT



"THE WORLD PASSETH AWAY, AND THE LUST
THEREOF: BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL
OF GOD ABIDETH FOR EVER"

JACK HANAM

— I JOHN 2:17

Sermon: James 1.17-18

The miracle of birth

15 December 2024

The Gospel and the essence of religion

Google says there are between 4,300 and 10,000 religions in this world. Some have been around for a long time; several of the eastern religions date from antiquity and have shaped the lives of innumerable millions. Take a trip to the Mediterranean and you'll see the relics of religions no longer current—temples to the Olympian gods, the columns at Karnak, the pagan idols, etc. For all the many religions, there is something Christianity has that none of them have—a founder who is God.

Christianity is not based on a philosophy but on a person who was God incarnate. None of the Greek philosophers claimed deity. Socrates, Plato, Aristotle never told men to believe something just because they said it. They offered their opinions and encouraged listeners to decide for themselves what was true and what wasn't (e.g., Simmias's conversation with Socrates in the *Phaedo*). Buddha didn't claim to be God, nor did Mohammed; relatively speaking, the claims these men made for themselves were modest and qualified. But Jesus didn't feign a fake humility. He emphasized and asserted Himself. "You have heard that it was said to those of old . . . but *I* say unto you . . ." When He introduced a teaching with the solemn formula, "Verily, verily/This is absolutely certain," it wasn't egotism talking but deity talking. Because He was God, Christ didn't suggest possible actions to His followers but commanded them to do as He did. He claimed to be the sum of His religion; "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Jesus believed the attraction of His Person would be enough to command allegiance and obedience. When a good cause finds a worthy leader, the stage is set for victory. David possessed such a manliness, and grace, and honesty that he attracted to himself hundreds of followers (1 Sam. 22.2) who were not only willing to share the dangers of being an outlaw with him living in the badlands of Judea, but who loved him to where they risked their lives to fulfil a pensive wish he had for a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem (2 Sam. 23.14–17).

The law Christ imposed was the law of love; and He didn't just expect it, He exemplified it. "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

The life blood of Christianity is Christ. At the center of our religion, and our religion alone, is not a philosophy or creed, but a Man who is God.

kenny

In the middle of the night

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters. Psalm 23.2

The older I get, the less I sleep. I can't sleep at a stretch like I did when I was young, and I have a knack for awaking in the middle of the night. When this happens, I have another problem to deal with; namely, the things I think about as I lay in bed wide awake in the middle of the night.

I don't know about you, but it seems my conscience talks more clearly to me at 2 a.m. (Ps. 4.4). This can make it hard to get back to sleep, because my middle-of-the-night conversations with myself usually focus on my sins. It's hard to sleep when I'm wracked by guilt.

So what do I do at such times? I don't pop pills; instead, I recall a passage full of ambience, I remember the 23rd Psalm.

By divine inspiration David mentions two elements that contribute mightily to restfulness.

Green is the color of nature and is said to be "very restful on the eye." People with vision-intensive jobs often wear green visors or use lamps with green shades to lessen eye strain.

The green pasture in Psalm 23 is due to water. "Now a river went out of Eden" (Gen. 2.10) to flow through the entirety of the Bible, becoming a river "whose streams shall make glad the city of God" (Ps. 46.4). The water of this river isn't *still* like a farm pond is still, but is *stilling in its effect*, soothing our soul like the *gurgling of a brook* or the *rippling of a stream*.

And what is it in Psalm 23 that puts the green in the pasture and the babble in the brook? It's knowing that we have a Good Shepherd who provides direction (v 2), restoration (v 3), and protection (v 4) for our life.

If you're a Christian struggling with insomnia, keep Psalm 23 at the edge of your thoughts. When you awaken in the middle of the night and your heart condemns you (1 Jn. 3.20), going to green pastures where you hear falling water can help greatly.

kenny

News about us

- Keep Lena, our sister in Orel, Russia, in your prayers. She had surgery this past week in connection with her cancer.
- Continue to pray for each other.