

Ministers:
the congregation

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

Wednesday:
6:30 PM: Bible Study

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

This Past Week:
Worship-28
Wednesday-

For meditation:
Ecclesiastes 10.20
The walls have ears. If
there's something
you'd never want an-
other person to know,
keep it to yourself.

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

What have we refused to sell?

I don't think Ahab meant for it to go as far as it did. He wanted Naboth's vineyard, but he didn't start out wanting Naboth dead.

But then that evil genius Jezebel got involved, and asked him what good it was being king if you couldn't have something you wanted (1 Kgs. 21.7). Ahab liked the sound of that, and so Jezebel set out to get him Naboth's vineyard.

It's amazing how easily that by a slight twist we can falsely represent a man's belief or statement. Ahab told Jezebel that he offered to buy the vineyard or swap it for other property, and that Naboth said, "I will not give you my vineyard" (21.6). What Naboth actually said was, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers" (21.4), invoking the Divine rule that an Israelite was not to relinquish the title to his family's allotment in the land except in cases of extreme necessity. Ahab knew what Naboth meant, but instead of truthfully reporting Naboth's answer, he pictured him as being stubborn, intransigent, and unreasonable.

There are some things in life we ought never sell. Like our soul. "Skin for skin! . . . all that a man has he will give for his life." "All these things I will give You if you will fall down and worship me." Some men might agree to that bargain. Maybe most men would. But not all men.

God we beg You to deliver us from the evil of selling so much for so little.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

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found in my reading . . .

J. H. Shorthouse was an English novelist who, as a young man, had doubts about the divinity of Christ. Searching for answers to his questions, he sought out and spoke with the Anglican bishop Edward King.

King didn't argue with him. Instead, he gave him two pieces of paper, one plain and one having a black border. He told Shorthouse to write on the plain paper everything he had ever done that was absolutely good, untainted by any evil. On the black-bordered page, he was to write things he had done that were wrong.

A few days later, Shorthouse returned. The black-bordered paper was full, on both sides; any more such pages could have been filled.

On the plain paper, Shorthouse had written just one thing he considered the best and purest thing he'd ever done: his love for his mother. But then, after writing it, he crossed it out. His love for his mother was good but not perfect. Far too often it had been marred by selfishness, bad temper, forgetfulness, etc.

"And what did you do then?" asked King.

Replied Shorthouse, "I went down on my knees and thanked God I had a Savior."

Sermon: Matthew 5.27-30

The Seventh Commandment

7 June 2026

A great text from Haggai

I will shake all nations,
and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations.

Haggai 2.7

All we know about the author of Haggai is found in the words: “Haggai the prophet” (1.1). Based on what he wrote, we know he was a spiritually minded man writing to a secularly minded people. Haggai, like his contemporary Zechariah, preached against a backdrop of lethargy, failure, and apathy.

The first verse is packed with historical data. Note the precision with which Haggai *dates* his prophecy, then look at 2.1, 10, 20, and you’ll see that Haggai contains four prophecies all identified by year, month, and day. Further, 1.1 says the *source* of the prophecy is the Lord, and the *recipients* are Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, and Joshua, the high priest. Haggai prophesied during the first return of the Jews from Babylonian captivity under the leadership of Zerubbabel, ca. 536 BC.

Four great problems are addressed by Haggai—priorities (ch. 1), discouragement (2.1–9), relationships (2.10–19), and perspective (2.20–23). But in 2.7, Haggai uses one of the great characterizations of Jesus Christ when he refers to Him as “the Desire of all nations.” So meaningful are the implications of this title that R. C. Trench wrote an entire book about it.

In *Christ the Desire of All Nations; or The Unconscious Prophecies of Heathendom*, Trench, having surveyed the writings of the pagan philosophers and wise men, lists a number of aspirations all men have longed and sought for. Unbelievers and believers aren’t distinguished by the things they want but by whether their religion could give them what they wanted.

For instance, (1) all men—believer or infidel—have yearned for **someone to conquer death**. (2) All tribes and nations have had sacrificial rituals they engaged in to appease the wrath of the god(s) whose anger they aroused by their sin. But what was most wanted was a **final sacrifice** that would once and forever placate the heavens. (3) Closely connected to this, all men have wanted **someone to redeem them from sin**, someone who could give his life in place of his (the man’s) own. (4) And they wanted someone **who could restore paradise**.

If you’d like to have the references from pagan literature for these universal aspirations, locate a copy of Trench’s book.

Christ is He who all men want, whether they realize it or not.

kenny

What makes a marriage?

Total acceptance

You accept your spouse in spite of his/her flaws and failings, crummy attitude, selfishness, immaturity, lack of spiritual leadership or spiritual following, hang-ups, and hold-outs. You married a “work in progress,” not a finished “work of art.” God is the God of the growing, not the perfect. “Love,” said Shakespeare, “is not love / Which alters when it alteration finds” (*Sonnet 116*).

Unconditional love

Love in marriage is not, “I will love you *if*,” but, “I will love you *no matter what*.” C. S. Lewis said, “Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing. . . . Love . . . Is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by the grace which both partners ask and receive from God . . . On this love the engine of marriage is run; being in love was the explosion that started it” (*Mere Christianity*, 99).

Spiritual modeling

There are husbands and wives who do not have a fraction of the Bible knowledge possessed by the other, but whether it’s a good day or a bad day in their marriage, they live and model the knowledge they possess. By so-doing, they are the salt of the earth in their marriage—preserving it from dissolution. They are a city set on a hill to their spouse, lighting the way to a stronger relationship. Do yourself a favor and to go to this link: <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/4730/pg4730-images.html>, and read D. J. Dennis’s story of Bill and Doreen, particularly the chapter “Beef Tea.”

Consistency

When one or both in a marriage are indifferent about their commitment to the other, the marriage is in serious trouble. Constancy is needed, one that will hold things together during hot and cold, up and down, the excited and the apathetic.

Intelligent support

A wife must not be a milquetoast Mrs. who never questions her husband’s hair-brained ideas. And a husband needs to accept that his wife is an expert in areas in which he is totally clueless. In marriage, two heads are meant to be better than one.

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