

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—27  
Wednesday—7  
Contribution—\$505

**For meditation:**  
Ecclesiastes 7.3–4  
How have you been  
made better by  
pain, tragedy, or  
loss?

**Radio program:**  
WGCY FM, 106.3  
Sundays at 8 AM

### *It's worth nothing . . .*

that twice in the New Testament a crowd asks, “What shall we do?”

One time is by a group wanting to know about justification—how one become a Christian? “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, *what shall we do?*’ Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2.37–38).

The other time, a group wanting to know about sanctification—how does one live like a Christian—asked John the Baptist, “*What shall we do?*” (Lk. 3.10). John “answered and said to them, ‘He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none, and he who has food, let him do likewise.’ Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, ‘Teacher, what shall we do?’ ‘And he said to them, ‘Collect no more than what is appointed for you.’ Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, ‘And what shall we do?’ So he said to them, ‘Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.’”

Be generous, be just, don’t bully are some of the practical, down-to-earth fruits that are worthy of repentance (Lk. 3.8). Grace and forgiveness bring ethical demands that are within reach of us all.

kenny

# Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

**“God doesn’t love  
us because we’re  
good, He loves us  
because He’s good.  
Haters don’t hate  
us because we’re  
evil, they hate us  
because they’re evil.  
(Isa. 52.4, Jn. 15.25, Rom. 3.24)**

Sermon: Hebrews 11.15–16

**Faith doesn’t quit**

21 September 2025

## *Jesus saw Himself as a sower*

**He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. Matthew 13.37**

The combines are getting into the fields around here, and the harvest is coming in. It's a good time to think about Christ in an agricultural context as a farmer walking over his field, broadcasting seed, picturing His work in preaching the gospel (Matt. 4.17).

Having grown up a farm boy, I can speak with certainty when I say the parameters of farming are sowing and reaping. These the farmer does—he plants the seed and reaps the harvest. But an often overlooked, critical part of farming is what happens between sowing and reaping. A farmer really has nothing to do with the in-between part, but it's then that **growth** occurs. "I planted, Apollos watered, *but God gave the increase*" (1 Cor. 3.6). "For the earth yields crops *by itself* [without the help of the farmer]: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head." It's "when the grain ripens," ever so slowly, that the farmer steps back in and "puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come" (Mk. 4.28–29). During the time of growth, a plant becomes *entire*, developing all its constituent parts, which then ripen into maturity (Jas. 1.4). The chief requisite of a farmer during the time of growth is patience. Note two things.

***Plants aren't responsible for their growth but people are.*** A cornstalk doesn't decide if it's going to obey the law of nature; if it produces a stunted ear of corn it's not to blame. But the Christian who doesn't grow up in all things like unto Christ (Eph. 4.14) is to blame.

***Our immaturity and irresponsibility need the patience of a sower.*** Does anyone doubt that if He wanted, the Lord could spend every minute of every day chiding us and finding fault? But that's not how Christ is with us. Like a farmer, He patiently waits for us to grow and mature. In the Gospels, there's a gracious reticence about Him. In His remonstrances there's tenderness. He had a hopefulness that bore with the delays and disappointments in our development as believers. He suffers long when we're slow to learn His lessons and do His will. He bears with us despite the times He's come to us looking for fruit and been disappointed. Have we ever revisited sins of which we repented? He still believes we'll do better and come round. The eternal Sower endures all things because He believes He will have His harvest in us—whether a hundredfold, sixty, or thirty, by and by.

kenny

## *This present evil age (Gal. 1.4)*

"Suddenly, I felt a need to see beneath the mask. I wanted to know the **FACE of the voice . . . swiftly my fingers tore away the mask. Oh, horror, horror, horror!**" **Gaston Leroux, *The Phantom of the Opera***

Every age can be characterized as evil. Everyone is born into a world that lives according to "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 2.2). Without realizing it, "we fill our lungs with polluted unbelief and then exhale disobedience" (Peterson). Of course there's good in the world, but because evil is so pervasive, it's easy to grow up mistaking evil for good. Part of growing in knowledge (2 Pet. 3.18) is recognizing the evil we've assimilated and extricating ourselves from it.

But this isn't easy because evil disguises itself as goodness (2 Cor. 11.14) and under this guise unleashes great harm. Few things pose a greater threat to society than the destruction of the home—the first divinely ordained institution—but one of the most effective attacks Satan has ever made on the home has been under the guise of compassion and humanity. I'm referring to the 1960's "war on poverty." Under this misnomer, the devil came for the family by financially disincentivized marriage. The result is that fifty to seventy percent of black households, the main recipients of the "welfare" doled out, are single-parent homes, which has only perpetuated poverty, increased drug addiction, child trafficking, child abuse, violent crime, and on and on.

Tragically, recent events have shockingly reminded us of a more sinister side of evil. Every now and then, the mask slips on "the angel of light" (2 Cor. 11.14) and what's seen is "horror, horror, horror!" Little children at school are shot dead by pervers. A young female refugee from a war-torn country is stabbed to death on public transportation by a career criminal and not a single bystander tries to stop him. A good man is slaughtered by an assassin's bullet in front of thousands.

And the whitewashing of politicians and pundits (more legislation, banning guns, etc.) won't change anything. **The strong man is stronger than all of us put together.** The only thing that can crush the serpent is by washing in the blood of the **Stronger**. Only Jesus Christ can end evil by changing men. May the recent outbreak of unspeakable evil teach this present evil age that lesson.

"Oh, precious is the flow that makes us white as snow; no other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus."

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