

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
217.493.8905

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—35
Wednesday—7
Contribution—\$

For meditation:
Proverbs 30.4
What's the an-
swers to Agur's
questions in v 4?
What point is he
making by asking
these questions?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Glenn

I've been thinking recently about how it is that one grows in grace and knowledge—something Christians ought to do (2 Pet. 3.18).

1 Peter teaches us that we grow in grace by submitting to undeserving people (2.18–20) and by suffering unjustly (2.21–25). When we become better servants of those who don't deserve to be served, and when we more willingly endure abuse without responding in kind (2.23), we are growing in grace.

When I thought about growing in knowledge, I recalled how Peter said that in resisting the devil, it helps to remember how brethren all over the world are successfully handling suffering and temptation (1 Pet. 5.9). The Bible offers a wealth of examples of ordinary people who navigated life without losing their faith. And outside the Bible, all around us, are friends and neighbors living noble and radiant lives despite the sufferings they endure. One way we can grow in knowledge is by learning from the heroes among us.

Glenn and I have known each other since rooming together at college a hundred years ago. He's a preacher; he's taught school; he's a Daniel Boone-type hunter and fisherman; he's never met a stranger, he laughs easily, and he loves his fellow man.

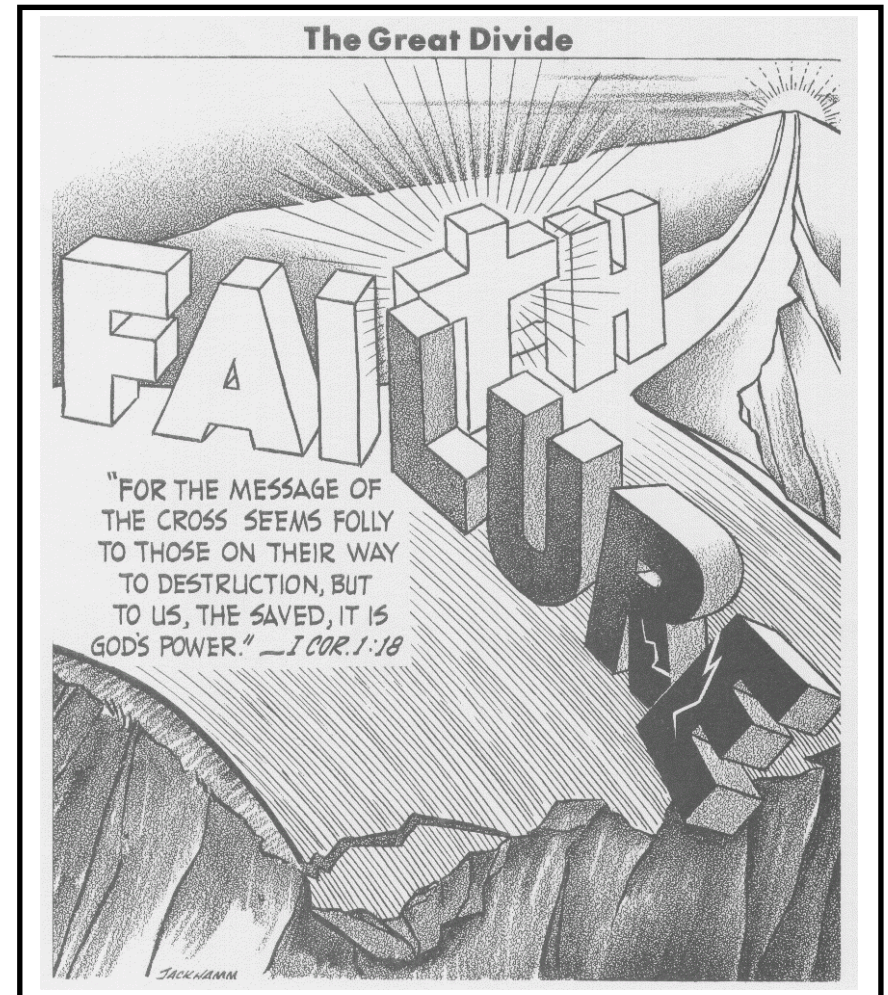
In recent years, Glenn's body has turned on him with all sorts of medical challenges, but to talk to him, you'd never know it. He radiates hope and blessed assurance.

I recently told Glenn that he's teaching me how to be brave. And other friends (e.g., Paula, Steve, Marcia, Shane) and many of you, are teaching me as well. You've been knocked down by life, but never knocked out. When my time comes, I hope I can be as brave as you.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL



Sermon: 1 Peter 3.7

Husbanding according to knowledge

12 May 2024

God's Son dies, 1

Mark continues to toll the hours (v 25) as they move relentlessly to the death of God's Son. In what follows, I want to pull together three incidents from Gospels other than Mark, which display three features of Christ's character that are exemplary as expressions of love.

CHRIST'S LOVE FOR HIS ENEMIES

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Lk. 23.34). Some think Christ said this for the benefit of the Romans; they, after all, were merely carrying out their orders. Unlike the Jews, they hadn't the opportunity for evaluating Christ's claims. I, however, tend to think the Jews were included with the Romans in this request (Acts 2.38). What I do think is that sin, even when committed in ignorance, requires forgiveness and that Christianity is antagonistic to the spirit of revenge. (Acts 2.38). If ever revenge was justified, Calvary was it, but Christ's request bespoke a spirit of love that is the very essence of the Gospel (Rom. 5.10). No Greek or Roman moralist ever rose this high.

CHRIST'S LOVE FOR HIS BROTHERS

"He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother!' And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home" (Jn. 19.26–27). In the midst of agony, Christ remembered His mother—He was leaving, but John would be as a son to her. If Jesus was a cousin to James and John, this incident illustrates the responsibilities a family has to care for its own (1 Tim. 5.4). Christ's word here shows the regard in which He held the commandment to honor one's parents. How can he who honors not his parents whom he has seen, honor the God he hasn't seen?

CHRIST'S CONFIDENCE IN HIS FATHER

"And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, 'Father, into your hands I commit My spirit.'" At the very end, our Lord prayed a prayer expressing confidence in three things: *God's presence*—He believed His Father was close enough to hear Him; *God's power*—He believed His Father had the Almighty capacity to guide, guard, and conduct His immortal spirit to the other side; and *God's love*—for which cause He yielded Himself into His Father's trusteeship.

Our enemies, our family, our; tend to these concerns and you'll be ready when it comes time to depart this world.

kenny

The death of the goat, 1

He's mentioned in the Bible, but not by name. He's described in Daniel 8.5–8 as the goat from the west who trampled the two-horned ram from the east. In history, Daniel's goat is known as Alexander the Great.

In the Arabic-speaking world, *Iskander* (and its derivatives) is the name Alexander. From the Gulf of Iskanderûn, in the northeastern corner of the Mediterranean Sea, to Kandahar (also derived from "Alexander"), Afghanistan, the Macedonian king left his name on water and land.

One of the best-known Alexandrian placenames is Alexandria, Egypt. The Eastern Harbor has for millennia been associated with Alexander, Ptolemy, Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra. And Alexandria was where seventy Jewish scholars produced the Septuagint (LXX)—the translation of the Hebrew OT into Greek.

Less known is the traditional association of Mark with Alexandria. When Paul and Barnabas parted ways over the question of Mark's fitness for missionary work, Paul took Silas and went into Asia Minor, whereas Barnabas took Mark and went to Cyprus (Acts 15.39). Tradition says Barnabas was martyred on Cyprus; Coptic tradition says that after his death, Mark took ship to Egypt and planted the church there. Further tradition says Mark accompanied Peter to Rome (1 Pet. 5.13) where he was reconciled to Paul. Coptic legends say Mark returned to Alexandria and one of his first converts was a shoemaker by the name of Annianus. Mark was martyred during the reign of Nero after he protested against a public procession in honor of the god Serapis. Infuriated by Mark's criticisms, the devotees of Serapis seized him, tied a rope around his neck, and dragged him through the city. They repeated this the following day when death ended his suffering.

Few men have made a greater impact in history than Alexander. One of the most fascinating aspects of his life is the story of his death, to which we'll turn next week.

kenny

News about us

- The best news this week is that the treatments Dave received at Mayo went well and he and Donna are back home with us.
- Keep Kellee, Gavin, Jerry, Tom, and everyone in prayer.