

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—25
Wednesday—15

For meditation:
Ecclesiastes 9.9–10
Solomon's inspired
advice is that we enjoy
our marriage and our
work. It's a shame he
didn't live up to his
own ideals.

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

“He who has the Son has life”

1 John 5.12, I think, summarizes the essence of everything John says in his Gospel, epistles, and Revelation.

What does it mean to “have the Son”?

What does it mean to “have a friend”? A “relative”? *Have* is a connecting word indicates a relationship between ourself and another person. Because a relationship exists, the possibility of being influenced (for good or bad) by the other exists.

Who is the “Son”?

In the writings of John, the Son is Jesus Christ, the divine/human being, the incarnate God who is fully man (Jn. 1.1,14,).

What is the meaning of “life”?

I don't think there's a one-word definition for *life*. Life is a composite of several qualities, for example, awareness, sensitiveness (the ability to feel and respond to sensory stimuli), energy, activity, growth, possibilities. To be in a relationship with Christ—to have a real experience with Him—is to be so influenced by Him that our existence constantly evolves, improves, develops, and moves from lower to higher ground.

And since life for those in Christ is *eternal* (1 Jn. 5.13), life in all its qualities will continue after we leave this world. Eternity, I believe, will involve a never-ending progression toward God. We will never grow into deity, we will always be humanity, but heaven will be an eternal trajectory wherein we become more and more like God.

Our spiritual growth, therefore, doesn't stop when we die; it continues in new and unimaginable ways under the tutelage of our Lord, as He lovingly makes us into beings worthy of His fellowship and company.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

The Ship That Found Herself

Might I suggest that the next time you set out to study the subject of trouble and adversity in the Bible, some good outside reading would be Rudyard Kipling's 1895 short story, *The Ship That Found*



Herself. The story provides some great insights into how adversity is to be met and handled in life. You don't have to buy the book, you can easily find it online by googling it. Here's a site that has the story in pdf format:

<https://americanliterature.com/author/rudyard-kipling/short-story/the-ship-that-found-herself>

Sermon: Matthew 5

The greatest sermon ever preached

15 March 2026

Ron Mosby's text

I'm a preacher because of Ron Mosby. My home congregation started when I was around five years old, and Ron was our first preacher. He was from Nashville but had matriculated to the University of Illinois, where he got a BA and MA in Greek. He was a dynamo as a preacher, and I was mesmerized by his energy, flair, "chalk talks," singing, etc. It all left an indelible impression and I never gave any serious thought to doing anything else other than preaching.

When the subject of arrogant, know-it-all who were fools but thought themselves wise came up, Ron would say of them that they "got their bucket too full."

If there's a text that teaches what Ron meant by this, it's 2 John 9. "Anyone who is 'advanced' and will not remain by the doctrine of Christ, does not possess God" (MOFFATT).

Have you ever known a believer going off to get an education and coming home an unbeliever in the inspiration of the Bible or the deity of Christ? Have you ever known someone go off to get an education and come home puffed up by education (1 Cor. 8.1)? Have you ever known someone with years of schooling look with disdain on an unschooled brother? Pride, whether human or devilish, cannot be defended. It must be gotten rid of at all costs. We think a pride that loves is better than a pride that hates, but a lover who doesn't repent of his pride will eventually degenerate below the hater in inhumanity.

We are to advance in our faith—grow in knowledge and understanding (2 Pet. 3.18; Col. 1.9,10). There was a big advance in Peter's understanding involving Christ's relationship to the world between his sermon in Acts 2 and the vision he received in Acts 10 involving Gentiles. There was an even bigger advance in numerous areas between his Acts 2 sermon and the epistle he wrote years later.

Christianity is meant to be understood (Matt. 13.51), but growing in understanding should not cause our head to swell.

When a man advances to far that he loses contact with Christ and His teachings, it doesn't matter how much the know-it-all thinks he knows, he has ceased to be a Christian. Advancement is apostasy when done outside the teaching of Christ.

Thank you, Ron, for the direction in which your example pointed me.

kenny

Pilate's wife

Matthew 27.19

She's only mentioned in one verse of the Bible—Matthew 27.19—but a great deal can be inferred about her from this one verse.

Augustus decreed that wives of Roman officials could not accompany them to foreign postings, but this executive order was relaxed by Tiberias, which allowed Pilate to take his wife with him to Judea in AD 26. To be sent to Judea in the first century would be like being sent to Baghdad or Beirut today. Due to the discontent of the Jewish populace, there was always a chance of violence. Nevertheless, Pilate's wife went with him to Judea.

Not only that, she went with him to Jerusalem during the Passover! Roman governors were headquartered in Caesarea (Acts 23.23ff), but during the Passover, the governor would deploy to Jerusalem, which would be the flashpoint for any Jewish uprising. Mrs. Pilate could have stayed in Caesarea watching soap operas and going to Pilate's classes, but instead, she went with her husband to Jerusalem, which speaks well of her courage and devotion as a wife.

There was another Roman official in Jerusalem at this time, the *chiliarch* ("captain," Jn. 18.12) who commanded the XII Legion stationed in Judea. Like the head of the FBI, his job was to know about any impending trouble. When Pilate reached Jerusalem, the captain undoubtedly briefed Pilate and likely told him about the commotion surrounding a Galilean, Jesus of Nazareth. On the feast day, Pilate was later notified of a matter that required him convening the court to hear charges against Jesus. When his wife awoke, she risked "contempt of court" by sending in a message about a troubling dream she knew was more than a dream. It was imperative she tell her husband not to get involved in an injustice the Jews meant to do an *innocent* man! God in His providence used Pilate's wife to deliver a stunning testimony to the righteousness of Jesus and to stop her husband from becoming a perpetrator in the greatest infamy ever committed. But it was to no avail. The best Pilate could do was proclaim his innocence and superstitiously wash his hands of any complicity in the matter. Guilt, however, cannot be dismissed so easily.

When Pilate got home that afternoon, I wonder what he and his wife talked about?

kenny