

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—26
Wednesday—17

For meditation:
Ecclesiastes 12.11–12
How are wise words a
goad and a nail? How
can books that are full
of words wear us out?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Christian experience

“That I may know Him, and the power of
His resurrection.” Philippians 3.10

There’s an ancient story about a king who
died but will one day return. *The Once and
Future King*, by T. H. White, preserves a
legend, tracing to Thomas Malory in the
fifteenth century, that King Arthur is not
truly dead but would return to Britain in
its time of greatest need.

I don’t believe Arthur will return, but I
believe Jesus will. Why believe one but
not the other? Because the promise of
Christ’s return is based on unimpeachable,
historical fact. On the morning of the third
day, the grave was seen empty and He was
seen alive. This is a powerful proposition
because it reflects reality. But its power is
inoperative unless it is personally em-
braced and obeyed (Mk. 4.20, Lk. 8.15).

To know the power of Christ’s resur-
rection surely means to believe God’s
word—with its promises, forgiveness,
commandments, instructions for life—is
true. It’s to believe God, by His word, will
see us through every emotional or spiritual
battle, heartbreak, or loss. Paul believed
resurrection power can withstand any
stress we face in this life (Eph. 1.19,20).

To know the “fellowship of Christ’s
sufferings” is to experience and endure the
suffering and sorrow sin brings to this
world.

And doesn’t being “conformed to His
death” imply knowing what it means to
serve our fellow man, even when the ser-
vice involves suffering and sacrifice on
our part?

Facts must become experience. We tru-
ly come to know Christ when we, in our
faltering, finite way, live what He lived.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

The Doctrine of Forgiveness Matthew 18.21–35

1. Forgiveness can be had for the asking, no matter how great the sin.
2. Any view that sets a limit on forgiveness is not a Christian view.
3. No further expiation or sacrifice on man’s part is necessary for forgiveness.
4. Restitution may follow forgiveness, but it is not a condition of forgiveness.
5. We must not only believe in the *forgiveness* of sins, we must believe in *forgiving* sin. “If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matt. 6.15).

James Oglethorpe, British general and member of Parliament, who founded the Province of Georgia, once said to John Wesley, about a subordinate who had disobeyed him, “You know, Mr. Wesley, I never forgive.” “Then I hope, sir,” replied Wesley, “that you never sin.”

Sermon: Matthew 6.19–23

Treasure in heaven

6 September 2026



My friends

I'm downsizing. More is going out than coming in. There are some things I won't give up: my books, some statuary, and the art hanging on the walls—for me, these are the things that make my house a home, and I'll keep them to the end.

But as much as I love my books, statues, and art, they're temporary and not worthy to be compared with the treasures we're to lay up in heaven (Matt. 6.19–21). Heavenly treasure is that which will last as long as we do. And since we're immortal, we should be looking to store up immortal treasure. One of the ways I'm doing that is by keeping up with my friends. Lincoln was right when he said "The better part of one's life consists of friendships." That's certainly the way life has been for me. Every year 'bout this time, folks head for New England, or the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, or Brown County, Indiana—wherever there are hardwood forests—to see the changing colors of the leaves. I read about a lady and her elderly mother who were driving the Blue Ridge Parkway. Pulling into a rest area, they got out and were stunned by the blaze of color that surrounded them. Said the daughter, "Isn't it wonderful of God to take something just before it dies and make it so beautiful?"

My closest friends and I are into the autumn of life, and winter isn't far off. But my goodness, my friends have never looked better! They're godly, active, giving, working, learning, traveling, encouraging, enjoying, smiling through the aches and pains of aging, and bravely facing the specter of the grave in full hope of resurrection. They're ablaze with color!

And to think I get to keep them forever!

kenny

How I missed out on a gold tooth

Aunt Babe (her real name was EllaMae) was a woman of this world in an endearing way. She was married to Uncle Avery, one of dad's older brothers. I never knew her to attend church or read the Bible, but she wasn't profane. She was kind and gracious; an exceptionally handsome lady; classy and dignified; a perfectionist who never criticized you for not being perfect. Babe loved our family, and she loved me like a son.

I remember a time when I was at Uncle Avery and Aunt Babe's house. Maybe I was there to spend the night. While I was there, I lost one of my baby teeth, and I remember Babe telling me, "If you don't put your tongue into the space where your tooth was, you'll grow a gold tooth."

GOLD! Who wouldn't want a GOLD tooth?! I determined on the spot to grow one. I wasn't going to put my tongue into the space formerly occupied by a baby tooth. I was determined. I was committed. I would give it my best shot. If it were possible to grow a gold tooth, I would do it. I threw my all into the endeavor. I doggedly, tenaciously, and strenuously did everything I could to keep my tongue out of that empty space.

I held out for two minutes. Maybe less. Hard to remember.

"You need endurance," wrote the writer of Hebrews (10.36).

When I checked my *Strong's Concordance*, I was surprised to learn that the English word *patience* doesn't appear in the KJV Old Testament, but the quality certainly does, as James 5.11 makes clear. Two Gr. words are translated as "patience" in the KJV. One, *makrothumeō*, means to suffer long, to not lose heart or grow discouraged. The other, *hupomonē*, means to stand under/to bear up under, to not crumple, to not collapse. Of this word, Barclay wrote, "Most people can start well; almost everyone can be fine in spasms. Most people have their good days. Most men have great moments. To everyone it is sometimes given to mount up with wings as eagles; in the moment of the great effort everyone can run and not be weary; but the greatest gift of all is to walk and not to faint" (*The Letter to the Hebrews*, 144).

C. S. Lewis said, "You can grip the arms of the dentist's chair or let your hands lie in your lap. The drill drills on" (*A Grief Observed*, 29). Life is going to happen; we must meet it determined.

I missed out on a gold tooth, but I still have a shot at the city whose streets are gold. By God's grace, I won't miss it.

kenny