

New Day Would It Matter?

Ephesians 3:1-13

Would the city of Prescott _____ if we ceased to exist?

Purpose: Discover What God has _____ for the Church of Christ.

I. It is the place where the Mystery is _____.

- The mystery is how God will _____
- The _____ of the tower of Babel are _____ in the Church.
- Galatians 3:27-29 – All humanity is _____ in Christ.

II. It is the vehicle that God uses to make known His wisdom to the rulers and authorities.

- **Cosmological Skepticism because of consistent human failures**
- “I will give you a _____ and put a _____ within you; Ezekiel 36:26
- In redemption we _____ the _____ and _____ of God. 1 Corinthians 1:24-25

III. It is God’s plan from the beginning.

- God takes all the _____, puts them together.
- The _____ is the way God intends to accomplish his mission in the world.

To go and make disciples is a challenging task. In Him we have _____ and _____.



Messenger

Welcome! We are glad you chose to worship with us.

The Vine and the Branches

This analogy that is presented in John 15 gives us some important insights into the movement of Christian growth. One of the significant insights is the fact that God is the Vine Dresser. That means His action in this movement is the critical factor.

This truth establishes a couple of facts. One, the vine dresser is in charge of the movement. It is His agenda, His desire and His plan. Two, the vine dresser owns the vineyard and He will do what is best in His own eyes. His concern is for the well-being of the vine because the trunk and the roots provide the nutrition to the branches and ultimately, the fruit that result. And, three, the vine dresser eagerly engages in removing and pruning the branches. It is His job and not the job of other branches.

Bible scholar Merrill Tenney wrote in his commentary on the Gospel of John, explains the role of the vine dresser. “In pruning a vine, two principles are generally observed: first, all dead wood must be ruthlessly removed; and second, the live wood must be cut back drastically. Dead wood harbors insects and disease and may cause the vine to rot, to say nothing of being unproductive and unsightly. Live wood must be trimmed back in order to prevent such heavy growth that the life of the vine goes into the wood rather than into fruit. The vineyards in the early spring look like a collection of barren, bleeding stumps; but in the fall they are filled with luxuriant purple grapes. As the farmer wields the pruning knife on his vines, so God cuts dead wood out from among His saints, and often cuts back the living wood so far that His method seems cruel. Nevertheless, from those who have suffered the most there often comes the greatest fruitfulness.”

We can create hard feelings when we take on the role of the vine dresser. We don’t have the expertise or the same concern as the vine dresser. We are branches. Branches can’t hold the pruning knife. If we are doing what we are supposed to do, we will be focusing our energy on “remaining” and bearing fruit. We will be dealing with the pain and struggle of pruning. We will allow the nutrition of the vine to flow through us, making us healthy and creating the opportunity for fruit that will endure.

By Dennis Baker

Sermon Summaries

Morning *New Day: Would It Matter? Ephesians 3:1-13*

From time to time, we are reminded of the importance of the church of Christ. Because of all the criticism of the church by “enlightened leaders”, we are tempted to buy into the hype and dismiss the important role that the Church plays in the big scheme of things and in the City of Prescott. I recently heard a lesson that asked the question, “Would it matter if your congregation closed its doors and ceased to exist?” Would anybody notice? Paul answers that question in our passage of study.

Evening *The Life of Joseph: Never a Good Reason to Break a Command of God – Genesis 39:6-15*

Joseph’s example as a person of faith is essential. Nothing seems to rattle him. It seems that everything in his life is great, but we know that is not true. What we have realized is that he trusts God no matter the situation. Whether things go great or things go south, we will praise God. That is an ethic that guided Joseph’s life and is a great one for us. In this section, Joseph faces another impossible faith challenge. We are impressed that he does not use it as an excuse to break a command of God.

Who is the Father of Your Child?

There are hundreds of churches around the world which are struggling because of a lack of leadership. Every year there are preachers who decide to no longer preach and many others who, because of failing health or advanced age, no longer stand as God’s messengers. Add to this the fact that death takes many from us. The truth is that the number of preachers who graduate from our colleges and schools of preaching are not replacing those who no longer preach. It is a serious problem in the church.

Consider also the fact that even more churches are suffering because of a lack of qualified elders and deacons. Many congregations which in time past had elders no longer have them. There is a diminishing number of men who take seriously the work of serving as deacons. How has all of this come about?

The Lord’s plan is very simple. It is for godly parents to fully understand their place in rearing their children to lead His people. We think of our children as being ours, but such is far from the truth. The Jews took what they thought were their children and actually sacrificed them to idols. How did God see this? “You have slain My children and offered them up” (Ezek. 16:21). Our children are not ours but His. They are God’s before He gives them to us. “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord” (Psa. 127:3). We receive our inheritance from the Lord when we are in our twenties!

Hannah understood this. She was no different from the way many of you were. When in your teens you thought about your future—who you would marry, where you would live and the children you would have. Hannah’s plan had not come about, for though she had a husband she had no children and agonized in prayer that she might have them. God heard her prayer and gave her Samuel. She gave him back to God by giving him up while he was so young. Her words? “For this child I prayed and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord” (1 Sam. 1:27-28).

The leadership problem facing the church is serious because we have lost sight of His plan. It has come about because we no longer see our children like those in the past saw their children. Parents, I urge you to change your view of those precious little ones in your home. They are not your children but His. How we view them drastically changes how we raise them. Every time Hannah called Samuel by name (his name means “a gift from God”), he was reminded of the fact that God had given him to Hannah so that she could give him back to God! How does this differ from you and your children?

Dan Jenkins --- churchofchristarticles.com

Things to Know

Ladies Retreat

September 10 & 11 at CBBC, make sure you turn your registration form by August 15. Flyers on back table.

Men’s Retreat

Sept 17th & 18th. Flyers on back table.

Thank You

We would like to say thank you for all our family at Mt Vernon for your prayers, cards, and phone calls concerning the passing of Ravenell. She loved all of you very much, as we loved her.

In Christian love,

Charlyene DeRonde and Nicole Aubin

LADIES RETREAT MEETING

Wed. July 28th 11am at church building.

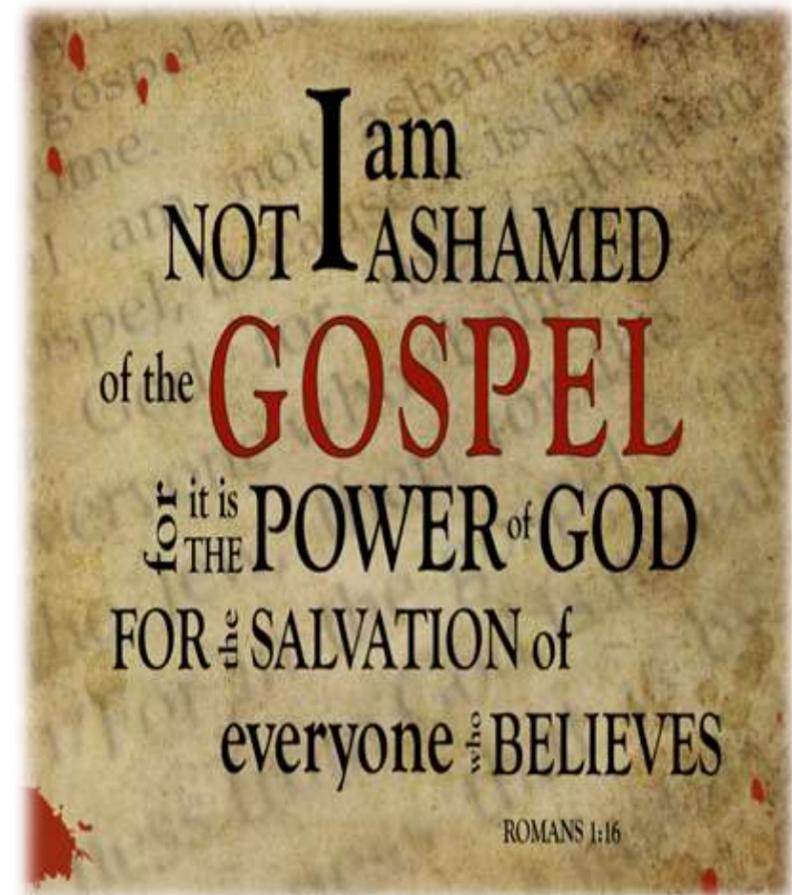
New Address

Kathy Darr has moved here is her new address 986 Grapevine Ln Prescott, AZ 86305



For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

- COLOSSIANS 1:13 NV



PRAYER REQUESTS

- ~ **Tracy Schoen (Marcia & Jesse Serrano’s daughter)** recovering from COVID side effects.
- ~ **Rusty & Bonnie Parker** many difficulties with Rusty’s dementia
- ~ **Suzanne Lacey (friend of Gowers)** kidney and lung cancer.
- ~ **Brandy Aquafedda (Denise Miler’s niece)** cancer treatment.
- ~ **Bob Justice** continued healing
- ~ **Sean Steward (friend of Barry & Millie Redden)** extreme side effects of COVID
- ~ **Carolyn Fields (friend of Larry Miller)** has terminal cancer.
- ~ **Allen Till (Dolores Buehler’s son-in-law)** cancer treatment
- ~ **Rita Bowden (friend of Sally Guest)** stage 4 cancer.

Our Shut-ins

Marjorie Trammell

Betty McInnes (Syble Mann’s mother) in Circle of Life Alzheimer’s Home

Schedule of Services

Bible Class	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wed. Ladies Class	11:00 am
Suspended until Sept 15 th	
Wed. Evening Study	7:00 pm

Minister Dennis Baker

Shepherds

Gordon Gower Morris Guest
Larry Miller

Deacons

Don Dillahunt Rick Pinney
Spencer Guest Troy Trammell

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ATTENDANCE

Bible Class	63
AM Worship	97
PM Worship	31

FINANCES

Weekly Budget	\$3995
Weekly Contribution	\$2812