



August 9, 2020

Weekly Newsletter

The Preacher's Post – *Darin Kennedy*

“Be in the world, but not of the world.” That’s not in there. It’s not in the Bible. One of you, maybe more, has probably used that statement sometime in the past week. The statement is an attempt to summarize Jesus’ teachings into a catchy phrase and mnemonic device, and as a human summary, its use needs to be examined. When used well, the statement helps us to remember that we disciples are heavenly citizens, but we still have an earthly existence that will not end until our death. We have a heavenly holiness, but we still live in a fallen, sinful world. We have a place of rest in the presence of God, but we have work to do while we’re still here. I agree with the sentiment expressed when in agreement with scripture.

However, the statement can also be used to approve of and rationalize fence-sitting and inappropriate compromise for disciples of Jesus. We might use it to simply approve of whatever we are doing in this world: I can make as much money as I want, I can play as much as I want, and I can fit in wherever I want as long as I’m nice about it, as long as I keep up my religious obligations, and as long as I make sure I’ve got my heavenly ticket punched after I die.

At times it needs to be shouted at us, “You are not of this world!” There is no reason you should be comfortable here or safe here or satisfied here. You are no longer identified by your national citizenship, your language, your gender, your racial heritage or skin color, your property, your past, or your accomplishments. You are not a disciple of Jesus *and* a regular person, *and* an American citizen, *and* a parent, *and* an employee. You are only a disciple of Jesus! Period...I mean, exclamation point! Your identity in Christ has not been added on to who you already were; instead, it has superseded and replaced who you already were. Nothing is the same.

Then why are we still here? That is a great biblical question. You can hear the question when a biblical writer asks, “How long?” You can see why people got so messed

up thinking that the flesh doesn’t matter anymore. You can see why some tried to say that we have freedom to live “no-holds-barred” without marital obligations or legal obligations or moral obligations. They heard the message well, “You are not of this world,” but they misappropriated it. How do we explain our continued physical existence with bodily, legal, societal, moral, and cultural obligations if we don’t belong here?

First, we are here for invasion purposes. Paul says that God’s plan is “to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ” (Ephesians 1:10). That will not happen with earth staying the same as it is, but it will only happen with heaven’s invasion and earth’s transformation. We are the ground forces of that invasion. The aerial attack will come in God’s own time, but invasion and reclamation have already begun in us. We enter society, marriage, businesses, and citizenship as disruptors, challengers, and soldiers. The weapons of warfare are the qualities of heaven that need to be produced on God’s earth: peace, compassion, forgiveness, holiness, faith, hope, love, etc.

Second, we are here for transformation. Yes, someday we will be “changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52), but the transformation into Christ’s glory has already begun. One might look and see there is nothing glorious about this life, but that in itself is Christ’s glory. He is Lord because he entered this inglorious life and grew in this life and was killed by this life and was raised to new life. Your transformation will be no different, and the result will be no less glorious.

Your life is a singular testimony that this world and the world to come are God’s. It’s about time the world heard that from us and saw that in us.

Prayer Requests

Lillie Ramage – has stage 4 pancreatic cancer, **Gideon Guntert** – fell out of a tree this week, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Sandra Innacarro) – has bladder cancer, **Paul Walker's** friend (Barbara Landis) – was diagnosed with ALS, **Pam Harrington's** mother passed away, **Gerri Hasty** – has melanoma in her finger and has surgery on August 10, **Drew Battistelli's** sister (Khristi Thomas) – has returned to work halftime and is still recovering, **Stormy Cook's** brother (Ralph) – had surgery concerning his esophagus, **Lena Bramlett** – is home from the hospital now. She is still weak but getting a little stronger, **Sharon Michael's** mother (Betty Spidel) – passed away, **Mary Ellen Myers's** son-in-law (David Ellifrites) – is having heart issues, **Cathy Eldridge** – has some internal bleeding, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Arthur Smith) – has bone marrow cancer, **Hannah Guntert's** friends (Wes and Linda Morgan) – COVID-19, **Linda Hyde's** mother (Willa Dean Haley) – is currently in hospice care, **Donna Wealand** – had foot surgery, a friend of the **Battistelli** family – COVID-19, **Marina Belekonnny** – from Ukraine has Hodgkin's lymphoma, **Anne Johnston** (former member) – is requesting prayers for medical issues and she is facing a tough and uncertain path forward, **Jeannie Ewens's** daughter (Emily) – health problems that have affected her ability to work, **Debbie Peerson** - (**UPDATE:** She had plasma injections. Praying for no surgery!), **Mary Ellen Myers's** sister (Carmen Stevens) - has been given only 3-6 months to live. (**UPDATE:** she is doing very well!!!), **Flora Swartz's** friend (Joanie Green) -**UPDATE:** She has stage 4 cancer in liver and cancer in lymphnodes. Chemo treatments are scheduled for the next 6 months, David Church – **Ben Church's** brother, **Andy Hester**, **Ralph** and **Eloise Staley**, **Joel Morehead**, **Bruce Keeton**, **Jurhee Bench**, **Will Kreisel**, **Dave Nash**.

Update on Joannie Green

Joannie's family and friends have been so thankful for all of the prayers and support for Joannie during this difficult time. I just wanted to remind everyone that we can still bless her financially. There is still a tab available on Breeze if you would like to contribute to her fund online. Or you can send a check to the church building with "Joannie Green Fund" in the memo.

Birthdays: August 9th – 15th

Mary Ellen Meyers – 9th

Mark Swartz – 10th

Dawn Cook – 11th

Quinn Wainscott – 11th

Jack McCrea – 13th

Nic Peerson – 14th

Becky Bonacker – 15th

Averi Gedwillo – 15th



Quinn Wainscott is turning 3!!!

Averi Gedwillo is turning 11!!!

Jack McCrea is turning 12!!!

New Address:

Stephen and Caitlin Couture

13311 15th St.

Grandview MO, 64030

children read a bible on the bed – [Volodimir Kalina](http://Volodimir_Kalina.com) © 123rf.com
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