

Kootenai Communicator

August
2019

The monthly newsletter of Kootenai Community Church, Kootenai, Idaho

Important Dates <<<

August

- 9 NEW! Young Adult Ministry, see p. 6
- 21-24 KCC Church Campout
- 24 Church Picnic and Baptismal Service

*Expounding the Scriptures, Exhorting the Saints,
Exalting the Savior*

Random Thoughts

By Jim Osman, Pastor/Teacher

If this "Random Thoughts" column is new to you, then here is a quick introduction. Below is a collection of my own observations, thoughts, and insights which may or may not prove to be a blessing to others. Each of these is not long enough to warrant an entire article on its own, but begged to be written down nonetheless.

Cremation vs. Burial January 15, 2019

Occasionally, I am asked what, if anything, does the Bible teach about cremation. The question is usually raised from certain financial concerns or constraints. On the whole, cremation is usually a cheaper option than burial. The cost of a casket alone can often be more than the cost of a cremation. On top of the cost of the casket, there is the cost of the burial plot, the headstone, and then all the other "extras" and "options" that can come along with burying a loved one. Understandably, cremation is an appealing option for many.

As we think our way through this intriguing question, let's keep these two complementary principles in mind. **First, there is no biblical prohibition against cremation, and second, there is a biblical pattern for burial.** I'll explain each of these.

There is no biblical prohibition against cremation. There is no verse in the Bible that says, "Thou shalt not dispose of the bodies of the dead by burning them." There is no clear prohibition. Further, there are no examples or instances in Scripture which might lead us to conclude, by implication, that cremation is a sin. For instance, there is no place where those who burned a body were condemned or suffered the judgment of God for that action. There is no condemnation of the practice either by direct command or implicit negative example.

There is a biblical pattern of burial. The value, theol-

ogy, and purpose of burial is demonstrated in a number of ways. Let me offer you several lines of biblical evidence to consider.

First, *the saints in Scripture showed concern for proper treatment and disposal of human remains.* For instance, in Genesis 49:29-31, Jacob gave instructions for how he wanted his remains to be handled after he died, saying, "I am about to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought along with the field from Ephron the Hittite for a burial site. There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, there they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and there I buried Leah." Though Jacob was in Egypt, that saint wanted to be buried (not burned) in the burial cave alongside his departed wife. Likewise, when facing death, Joseph charged the sons of Israel, saying, "God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here" (Genesis 50:25). Four hundred years later, Moses honored that request and took the bones of Joseph with them when the Israelites left Egypt (Exodus 13:19).

Second, *the saints in Scripture regard it as a disgrace to not have a proper burial.* When Saul and Jonathan died in 1 Samuel 31:9-13 we read, "They [the Philistines] cut off his head and stripped off his weapons, and sent them throughout the land of the Philistines, to carry the good news to the house of their idols and to the people. They put his weapons in the temple of Ashtaroth, and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan. Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, all the valiant men rose and walked all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the

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wall of Beth-shan, and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. They took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.”

That is an interesting account since the men of Jabesh first burned the bodies of Saul and his sons before burying their bones. This does not seem to be an equivalent to the modern practice of cremation since after these remains were “burned” their bones were still buried in proper fashion. Some have suggested that this burning was the practice of “burning incense” over the bodies in order to honor the remains after they had been so defiled by the Philistines. Others suggest that the dead flesh had begun to putrefy, so the burning was intended to burn off the rotten flesh. Still others suggest that the burning of the bodies was intended to hide or mask the extent to which their bodies had been defiled and humiliated by the Philistines. In that case, it would have been an act to purify a ceremonially defiled corpse prior to giving it a proper burial rather than to dispose of that corpse by fire. Whatever this “burning” entailed, it did not completely destroy the bodies since they were subsequently buried.

Later, David commended and honored the men of Jabesh-gilead for their proper and honorable treatment of Saul’s remains. 2 Samuel 2:4–6: “Then the men of Judah came and there anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, ‘It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul.’ David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead, and said to them, ‘May you be blessed of the LORD because you have shown this kindness to Saul your lord, and have buried him. Now may the LORD show lovingkindness and truth to you; and I also will show this goodness to you, because you have done this thing.’”

For further proof regarding the importance of a proper burial, we find this in Ecclesiastes 6:3–4: “If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, however many they be, but his soul is not satisfied with good things and he does not even have a proper burial, then I say, ‘Better the miscarriage than he, for it comes in futility and goes into obscurity; and its name is covered in obscurity.’”

Third, *there is a theology behind burial; the theology of bodily resurrection*. Both Old and New Testaments teach the doctrine of bodily resurrection—the eventual physical resurrection of the body. The burial of a body is a visible way of expressing our confidence in the coming resurrection. Non-Christian religious view the physical body as a hindrance to spiritual advancement. Consequently, those pagan religions viewed liberation from the body at death as a good and desirable thing. Contrary to that, Christians teach that the material world is a good thing that has been marred by Adam’s sin. The New Creation (of Revelation 21–22) is going to be a physical paradise inhabited by physical creatures. The righteous get a resurrected body fit to dwell in a resurrected creation for all eternity. Christians do not long to be free from our bodies, but to have our bodies transformed into new and glorious bodies fit for eternity in the coming new earth (2 Corinthians 5:1–5; Philippians 3:20–21; John 5:24–29). We are confident that the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead will likewise raise us from the dead on the last day (Romans 8:11, 18–23; John 6:39–40, 44).

Fourth, *the Bible uses the analogy of planting a seed in the earth to illustrate the nature of our resurrected bodies (1*

Corinthians 15:35–49). Paul’s repeated description of our current body being “sown” (15: 36, 37, 38, 42, 43, 44) in the earth out of which our resurrected bodies will arise, certainly assumes burial and not burning. The act of burial is more than just an accidental similarity to Paul’s analogy. Burying our dead is a way of testifying to our belief in the promises of 1 Corinthians 15. We put the body in the ground in the same way a farmer sows a seed—with hope of a glorious harvest to come. The cremation of the body neither symbolizes nor expresses any such hope.

When we give bodies a proper burial, we affirm that we view the body with the same dignity afforded it in Scripture. We are showing our belief that while there has been a separation between the soul of our loved one and his body, that separation is only temporary. For we believe that that same body (in glorified form) will be raised on the last day. The cremation of human remains carries no such symbolic significance.

I am not suggesting that cremating remains will keep God from resurrecting them on the last day. God will resurrect those who have been cremated the same as those who have been buried. Burying the dead does not make their resurrection easier for God. Those who perish in a house fire or an explosion are no less certain to be raised than those who are buried. The remains of Jacob, Joseph, and Moses are no more intact today than those of a deceased and cremated loved one. The resurrection will entail a reconstituting of the elements that composed our bodies—but in a gloriously powerful and eternal form!

In summary, while cremation is not condemned in Scripture, it is not commended either. The dignified handling of human remains, which includes burial, reflects the biblical teaching on the significance of the human body and a belief in the coming bodily resurrection of the righteous. Burial is not only commended, it is modeled, and it is theologically significant. Is it sinful to cremate a loved one? No. However, burying our loved ones gives testimony to our hope that they shall rise again.

Odd Funeral Tales

June 27, 2019

In my near quarter-century of pastoral ministry, I have had to officiate at a few dozen funerals. I have done funerals for believers and unbelievers, people I had never met, people I knew, close friends, relatives, and even my own grandmother. Officiating at funerals is not my favorite part of pastoral ministry, for sure. My angst over doing funeral services has nothing to do with the sadness that surrounds the event. Instead, I have this irrational fear that I will mess something up that will be remembered for all time. What if I mix up the names in the nervousness of the moment and refer to the deceased by some other name?

I always fear that I am going to mispronounce a name, particularly when reading the obituary. I am not sure if I have ever read an obituary that didn’t mention a town with a weird name or refer to a surviving family member whose last name was nigh unto impossible to pronounce. And here is a little-known fact (at least it was until this gets published!), I have a recurring nightmare of standing to read something at a church service or funeral and being

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**Sunday School
begins
at 9:30 a.m.**

7th and 8th Grade Class: Taryn Osman

By God's grace, we continue to work our way through 1 Corinthians. We've recently finished up Chapter 4, examining Paul's exhortation for unity and marveling at his love for this difficult church and the incredible truths presented in each verse. We gained four new students from the younger class in June and it's been a joy to share with them all that we've learned so far and have them join us in our study.

>>> *Missionary Moment - Aaron & Joanie Kin, Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp*



Summer brings our busiest season here at Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp. May 31-June 1 were our Work Days, where 60 volunteers descended on Camp and mowed, cleaned, organized, cut wood and many other tasks that blessed the camp and got it looking good for the summer. At Staff Training, June 17-21, youth and adult staff learned the ropes of what is expected of them serving at camp, or, in many cases, got a refresher. We are grateful to God for the many new and returning staff, both young and old.

Summer Camp itself started July 7 with our Teen Camp and finishes with our Family Camp, August 16-18. As with all of our events, I am responsible for recruiting cooks, planning menus, ordering food and, in many cases, cooking as well. To give you some perspective, at our 9- and 10-year-old Camp last summer we cooked 340 meals 3 times a day. And we were short-staffed! Our days are long and very hot, and I am grateful to God for the cooks He has placed in His service at Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp. It is a challenging environment—literally.

On the personal side, Shirley, my daughter, has finished with middle school and will start high school in September. She is going to Teen Camp this year and will be assisting where needed during 11/12 Camp. We pray God will draw her close to Him during this time and that she will, Lord willing, join Youth Leadership this Fall. Joanie and I are saving up for an After Summer/10th Anniversary trip to the Oregon Coast this October. Please pray that God will provide for this trip, as the Oregon Coast is one of our favorite places.

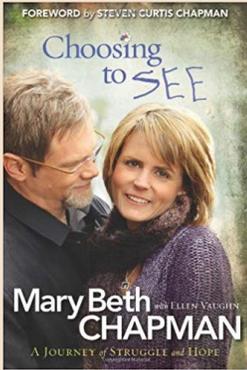
We are grateful to God that He has brought us into this life of ministry. We thank Him for His provision and for the fellow believers He uses to support us in this ministry. We are at approximately half of the support we need to raise to replace the income I made working for Bonner County, and yet we know God will cover all of our needs. Please pray about partnering with us in financial support as we serve the Lord together.

Sincerely,
Aaron and Joanie Kin

"For you do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it: You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise." Psalm 51:16-17 NKJV



>>>Garden of Readin'



Choosing to See

by Mary Beth Chapman with Ellen Vaughn

After experiencing a tragedy she never could have imagined, Mary Beth Chapman (wife of singer/songwriter Steven Curtis Chapman) unveils her struggle to allow God to write the story of her life, both the happy chapters and the tragic ones. The title *Choosing to See* refers to the choice every believer has to seek out God's grace and hope even in the hard times, instead of staying mired in pain and self-pity. If you've ever asked yourself "Where is God when things fall apart" or "Why does God allow terrible things to happen?", you might glean some insights from Mary Beth's story. (Biography shelf)

Please contact Jenny Leo (610-2520) about donations or any library-related matter.

Women's Ministry <<<



SIGN-UP NOW!

Tuesday Mornings - 9:00 a.m.

- At Diane Carlson's home, 209 Heath Lake Rd., Sagle
- Led by Lori Wood
- Study begins September 10
- Studying the book **Transforming Grace** by Jerry Bridges

Thursday Evenings - 6:30 p.m.

- At the home of Barbara Juneau, 67 Ponder Point Ln., Sandpoint
- Led by Lisa Slippy
- Study begins September 12
- Studying the book **Trusting God** by Jerry Bridges



Operation Christmas Child

A Kids Packing Party is being planned for September 14 and the kids of KCC need your help! Each month we will be collecting different kinds of items. **During the month of AUGUST we are collecting SCHOOL SUPPLIES.** Pick up a list of ideas on the table in the lobby. Questions? Contact Katie Moon, 208 -627-3871.

>>>Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp

Please visit the camp website at clbcamp.org for more details.



FAMILY CAMP: AUGUST 16-18
SUMMER BACKPACKING CAMP: AUG. 7-10
SUMMER INTERMEDIATE BACKPACKING CAMP : AUGUST 22-25
DETAILS AVAILABLE AT WWW.CLBCAMP.ORG



Student Ministries <<<

STUDENT MINISTRIES LOCK-IN!

When: September 13-14

Where: Kootenai Community Church

What: AN OVERNIGHT STAY FILLED WITH FOOD, GAMES, MOVIES, AND FELLOWSHIP

Who: 7th-12th Grade Students



STUDENTS, PLEASE COME FOR A CHANCE TO HANG OUT AND FELLOWSHIP! PIZZA AND HOMEMADE MILKSHAKES WILL BE PROVIDED FRIDAY NIGHT, ALONG WITH DONUTS AND COFFEE SATURDAY MORNING. IF YOU CANNOT STAY THROUGH THE NIGHT, PLEASE COME FRIDAY EVENING AND ENJOY A MEAL AND GAMES. PICK-UP FOR THOSE NOT STAYING THE NIGHT WILL BE AT 10 P.M. BRING SNACKS TO SHARE AND YOUR FAVORITE GAMES! PICK-UP WILL BE SATURDAY MORNING, 7-8 A.M. **More details to come via email.** PLEASE CONTACT STEVE OR EMILY HILL WITH ANY QUESTIONS!



>>>Kootenai Thunder

kootenaithunder.com

For the most current information, please check our website and Facebook page.

FALL SPORTS SET TO BEGIN!

The Kootenai Thunder sports season is about to get back into full swing with Jr., JV, and varsity girls volleyball, and varsity boys soccer beginning practices in mid-August. We have all our coaches lined up and we are ready to hit the ground running. The fall schedule will be posted on our website soon. Volleyball games will be played at the Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp gym, and soccer will be played at Centennial Field.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Homeschool and Private School Students

Girls' Volleyball

is open for age 10 through 12th grade.



Boys' Soccer

is open for grades 7-12 boys.



>>>Kootenai Classifieds

Place your ad here next month! Email the details to **lisaslippy@gmail.com** by the 15th of the month to get it in!



Chemical-free produce for sale.

Please call Andrea Kinne for prices and availability of vegetables and herbs.
(208) 265-0102



BAPTISMAL SERVICE

At Marley Beach Campground

The baptism will be held at our annual campout on August 24. If you are interested in learning more about baptism and what it means, or would like to be baptized, talk to Pastor Jim Osman or Pastor Dave Rich.

>>> Building Update



Sanctuary Carpet

A “carpet fund” is being set up to carpet the sanctuary. If you would like to donate towards the carpet for the new sanctuary, simply mark your contribution “Carpet Fund” and we will put it toward the cost. Part of the money is already in the Building Fund, but we need to raise another \$10,000.



Church News <<<

2019 CHURCH CAMPOUT & BBQ August 21-24

We are blessed to be able to use the Marley Beach Campground again this year. It is a beautiful piece of real estate along the Pend Oreille River that we get to have all to ourselves. There is a wonderful dock for **swimming, boating, and fishing**. There is also a covered pavilion with **picnic tables**, a soft **grassy area for games**, and a sandy **beach and volleyball area**.

SIGN UP AND FIND MORE DETAILS AT THE WELCOME TABLE!!

If you are unable to camp with us, at least plan on the BBQ on Saturday at noon.

KCC ACTIVITY BOARD

WHAT FOR?
To facilitate communication about informal gatherings / events where we can get to know each other better!

facebook

WHO?
Anyone who calls KCC home

SUCH AS...
hikes, lake swims, playgrounds, concerts, shopping trips, picnics, informal sports, etc.

WHAT?
It's a page on Facebook!



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY KICK-OFF!

For those post-high school through young marrieds with no kids

When: Friday, August 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Lake Cabin at 461424 Hwy. 95, Cocolalla

Turn west toward lake when you see Wolf People on east side near Southside School Rd, cross RR tracks (beware, no signal), head north, road ends at 461424, small gray cabin.

Call Jenny Stevens at 208-625-9865 with any questions.

Bring a side to share! We have a few paddle boards, small boats and fishing gear to share. Feel free to bring your favorite water toys.



unable to pronounce every other word. I have woken up shaking in cold sweat from that dream more than once. I promise you, there is not a word of exaggeration in what you have just read.

I have worked with three different funeral directors over the years and every once in a while, I will ask them this question: "What is the weirdest funeral experience you have had recently?"

Then I let them talk. One thing I've learned—people are odd! I have a few examples of strange funeral experiences that I have had over the years.

Once, I did a funeral service for a person I had never met. There was not a graveside service, but only a service held in the funeral chapel. I was warned that because this lady's family had all died before her, there might not be very many people in attendance at her service. Even though I wasn't expecting a full house, I prepared the service just as I would for anyone else. I prepared to read the obituary and several Scripture references, and to preach a brief message presenting the gospel. On the day of the funeral, there were four people in the chapel, and that number included me and the funeral director! Two ladies (a nurse and a caregiver) sat in the front row of the chapel while I preached a sermon. "Awkward" does not describe what that is like!

I did a graveside service one time for a man who is buried out in the cemetery along Lakeshore Drive. Nobody showed up. Nobody. The funeral director and I stood near the grave site, I said a prayer and then I left.

On another occasion, I was called on to do a graveside service for another person I did not know. When the funeral director asked me to do the service, he phrased the question in a way that caught my attention: "Jim, I am wondering if you would be willing to do a very *short* graveside service for a family who has lost a loved one."

"Yeah, Dale," I replied. "I would be willing to help out with that? Does this family attend a local church?"

"No. They requested a *short* graveside service."

I sensed that he was emphasizing the word "short." I confirmed I would be willing to do the service and he said they would call with more details the following day.

Sure enough, the next day they called, but this time I talked to one of the other employees of that funeral home. Before we hung up, he said, "Oh, Jim – one more thing. Did Dale mention yesterday that the family wants this service to be *short*?"

"Yeah, he mentioned that twice. This seems a bit odd. Do you have any idea why the family is requesting that?"

"No. It just says here in my notes that this service should be short and that the family emphasized that point."

"O.K." I said. "I'll keep it brief. I'll see you this Thursday."

As I drove up to the cemetery, there was a third funeral home employee there directing traffic. I pulled up, lowered my window, and greeted him. We knew each other as we had worked together quite a few times. We shook hands and he told me where to park. As I was pulling away, he said, "Oh, Jim! Did Dale or Tim mention to you on the phone that the family wants this to be kept *short*?"

"Yeah," I said, "They both mentioned it."

I parked my car, got out, and started to make my way toward the crowd gathered at the graveside. As I approached, I noticed a couple who attended our church at the time. I walked up to chat with them prior to the beginning of the service. After a brief chat, I started to step away to start the service. The man from our church said to me, "If you know what is good for you, you will keep this service short." His wife stood beside him with her eyes wide open, nodding her head vigorously in agreement.

I looked over the crowd of friends and family who were gathering around and I felt like they were all looking askance at me, almost as if they were sizing me up for something.

I welcomed everyone to the service and then I read two verses of Scripture: John 11:25–26: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?'"

Then I said the following: "Death is an intrusion into God's creation. It is the result of sin. We all die because we are all sinners. We have sinned against God and for our crimes, God will give us justice in an eternal Hell unless we trust in Jesus Christ. He came into this world to pay the price for the sin of all who will trust Him. He died on a cross, suffering the wrath of God for sinners. He was buried. He rose again. He is coming again to judge the living and the dead. We will all stand before Him and give an account for our sins unless we obey His command to repent and trust the Savior He has provided. God commands us this day to repent and believe that message or suffer the justice of God for our sins. Death is a sober reminder that what I am saying is true. Let's bow our heads in prayer. Lord, I thank you for sending a Savior to save all who will trust in You. We commit this body to the earth knowing that you will do what is right and just on the last day. In the name of Christ, the one and only Savior, Amen."

I nodded to the funeral director who stepped up to dismiss the crowd. Given the speed with which I am prone to speak, I doubt that the whole "sermon" took more than 60 seconds.

Afterwards, I made my way over to the couple from church. "Well," he said, "That was certainly short."

"That's what everyone said they wanted. I have been told by three different funeral home employees that I was supposed to keep it short. Then when I showed up here, you mentioned that I needed to keep it short. Can you tell me why? What is going on with this family? Why such an odd request?"

They explained that the previous year, the spouse of the person I had just buried had died. That service was also a graveside service on a day when the temperature was over 100 degrees. The graveside service was held on that extremely hot day, in the cemetery under direct sunlight. With the temperature over 100 degrees, and no shade for relief, the pastor preached for 1 hour!

The family was livid! Their outrage was made known to this funeral director and his staff in no uncertain terms. That explained why the previous pastor was not called back to do this graveside and why I got called instead. The day on which I did the service was also a warm summer day. It wasn't 100 degrees, but it was still pretty warm. Several people from the family walked up to thank me for the service and said it was "perfect."

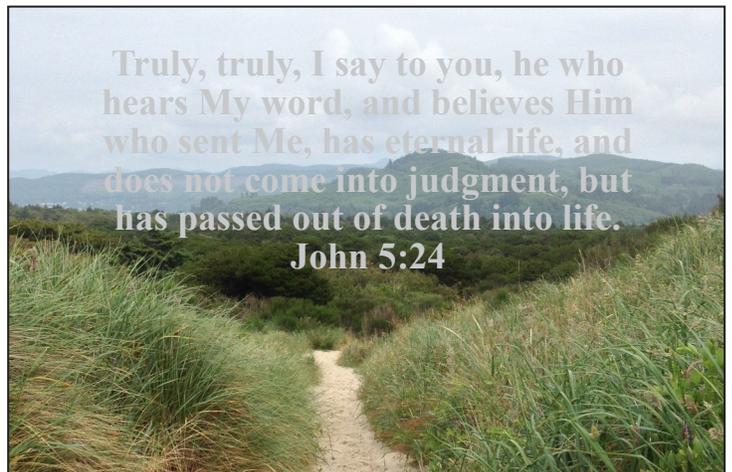
That was *odd*.

Without Wax-



Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

John 5:24



Kootenai Community Church

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kcc@nctv.com
www.kootenaichurch.org

KCC SUMMER PICNIC AND BAPTISMAL SERVICE

Saturday, Aug. 24
At Marley Beach Campground

12:00 BBQ Potluck
2:00 Baptismal Service

Bring: side dish or dessert
Provided: hot dogs and
hamburgers with con-
diments and top-
pings

SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME TABLE TODAY!

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

Sign-up is open for this round of Fellowship Dinners!

Are you interested in getting to know people within the KCC body? Fellowship Dinners are a great way to build relationships within the church over an informal monthly meal. Singles, families, and couples are all welcome! This session will meet for the 4 months of September-December. Once signed up, you will be put into groups and contacted to schedule your first get-together. Sign up in the lobby or online at <https://kootenaichurch.org/fellowship-dinners/>.

