

Dangerous Self-Deception

When we refuse to admit our powerless- ness we are only deceiving ourselves. The lies we tell ourselves and others are familiar: "I can stop any time I want to." "I'm in control; this one won't hurt anything." And all the while, we are inching closer to disaster.

Samson was one of Israel's judges. As a child, he had been dedicated to God, and God had gifted him with supernatural strength. But Samson had a lifelong weakness - the way he related to women. Samson was especially blinded to the dangers he faced in his relationship with Delilah. His enemies were paying her to discover the secret of his strength. Three times she begged Samson to tell her his secret. Each time she set him up and tried to hand him over to the enemy. Three times Samson lied to her and was able to escape. But each time he got closer to telling her the truth. Finally, Samson revealed his secret, was taken captive, and died a slave in enemy hands.

Samson's real problem can be found in the lies he told himself. By not admitting his powerlessness, he remained blind to the obvious danger that his pride and desire for beautiful foreign women were leading him into. This caused him to gradually inch his way toward an untimely death. We need to be careful not to fall into a similar trap. As we learn to acknowledge our powerlessness over our sinful tendencies daily, we will become more aware of behaviors that will likely lead us to destruction.

Recognize Weakness

Judges 16:4-17

The love affair between Samson and Delilah is one of the saddest examples of a dysfunctional relationship in history. We are told that Samson did love Delilah (v. 4), but Delilah clearly valued money above their relationship. It should have been obvious to Samson that Delilah was working with the Philistines to destroy him. But to get the physical pleasures he craved, Samson led Delilah on, staying in a situation he should have run from. He blindly believed he was virtually indestructible. This left him open to utter humiliation and suffering. If we hope to succeed in recovery, we need to recognize our weaknesses and avoid situations where we are vulnerable.

Hand it Over to God

Judges 16:22-31

It took the loss of his physical sight for Samson to gain personal and spiritual insight. But that was not the end of the story. In his prayer to God, Samson finally admitted his helplessness and committed himself into God's hands. Notice that Samson accomplished more in his God-appointed death than in his entire self-centered life. And despite Samson's serious flaws, he was remembered as a man of faith (see Hebrews 11:32). We can only imagine how Samson would have altered history had he been committed to God throughout his life. We need to examine our lives for missed opportunities and then determine not to miss them when they arise again.

Supported Missionaries and Works

Clio Eldred – www.RefugeinChrist.net
Nathan and Alvin Luther – Philippines

Cimi Kafexhiu - The Church in Durres, Albania

Judges 16:1-31

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	10:00 am	Bible Study	At the building and live stream
Sunday	11:00 am	Worship	At the building and live stream
Wednesday	10:30 am	Senior Breakfast	At Perkins
Wednesday	7:00 pm	{ 1st Wed – singing 2nd Wed – Bible study 3rd Wed – Bible study 4th Wed – Service Project: }	At the building

Order of Service

230 – Worthy Art Thou	xxx – Be Unto Your Name
xxx – For the Lord is a Righteous God	Offering (Michael)
231 – Thou Art Worthy	Announcements (Bob)
234 – Worthy Is the Lamb	24 – Blessed Be the Name of the Lord
xxx – Worthy Is the Lamb	Pew Packers / Sermon (Andy)
Lord's Supper Celebration (Holden, Nathan, Michael, Michael)	xxx – Great Are You Lord
	Prayer (Kyle)

Leadership

Kyle Allbritten, Elder	kallbritten67@gmail.com	618-638-6894
Gary Hunt, Elder	garyhunt136@gmail.com	208-351-8947
Rob Pope, Elder	robpope2@gmail.com	208-757-8175
Andy Burns, Evangelist	apburns8@gmail.com	208-569-9193 Idahofallschurchofchrist.org

The Need for Relationships

Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Sometimes we may pull away from healthy relationships or fall into codependent or negative situations that undermine our recovery. These verses remind us that relationships with other believers are crucial to our spiritual growth; godly people can encourage us and hold us accountable. No one can stand alone for long in the recovery process. If we run from healthy relationships, we are running straight toward a painful relapse.

Bible Quiz

1. In which book do we find the story of the birth of Isaac?
2. Where did Jacob have his dream of a ladder or stairway?
3. What happens immediately after the resurrection and ascension of the two witnesses in Revelation?
4. Who got up early every morning to intercept visitors to David?
5. What does the Greek word "Ecclesiastes" mean?
6. Who was the best known brother of Joses?
7. Complete the following quotation of Jesus found in Matthew 19:6: "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ..."

Just for Today the Choice is Mine

Just for today I will have a quiet time of meditation wherein I shall think of my God, of myself, and of my neighbor. I shall relax and seek truth

Announcements

- Jeanne Edward's new address is: 885 Lomax St., Apt 4104, Idaho Falls ID 83401
- Andy & Teri's new address is: 2540 E 94th N, Idaho Fall, ID 83401
- Bobbie Knight would appreciate cards & letters. You can text or talk thru the 'GettingOut' app, or you can send letters to:
Bonneville County Jail
Bobbie Knight ID # 2815
P.O. Box 2966, PMB 35803
San Antonio, TX 78299-2966
- Bulletin Updates: please email to bob_queenan@yahoo.com or text 208-403-3547.

Calendar

Jan 29th

Galentine's Day bunco party next Saturday at noon at Brenda Baker's house. If you are coming, please RSVP by this Tuesday, 1/25, to 406-539-1484.

Prayers and Praise

- Pray for all those coping with Covid or flu, including Crystal, Katie, John, Lynn & Lydia & family, Anna, the Sexton family, Rob Pope, Danita, and Angie's mom.
- Congratulations to Kristen & Charlie, expecting a baby this summer!!
- Pray for Brenda's father James, recovering from pneumonia.
- Pray for Kay's nephew Jeremy, home from the ICU but undergoing physical therapy.
- Pray for our school kids, coping with changing circumstances.
- Pray for Brenda & Gene, sheltering at home.
- Pray for Will & Jeri, sheltering at home.
- Pray for Caleb, training at AIM through March and then serving the Lord in Arlington, Texas.
- Pray for Harry & Barb's daughter Crystal, for encouragement.
- Pray for Harry, coping with medical issues.
- Pray for Gary, Rob, Kyle & Andy as they lead our congregation.
- Pray for Jordan and Thomas, serving in the armed forces.
- Pray for our widows: Ella, Miriam, Louise, Sallye, Millie & Carolyn.

Bible Quiz Answers

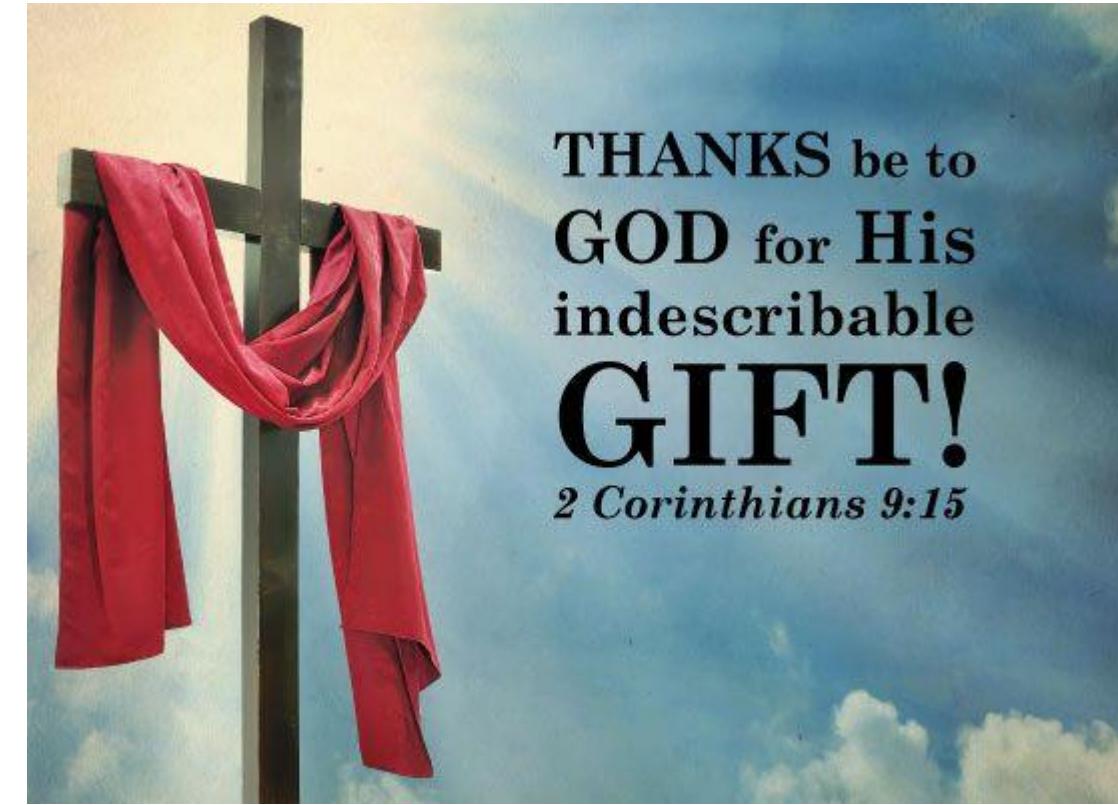
- 1.Genesis (Gen 21:1-8)
- 2.Bethel (Gen 28:10-12)
- 3.An earthquake (Rev 11:9-13)
- 4.Absalom (2 Sam 15:1-6)
- 5.The preacher
- 6.Jesus (Mark 6:3)
- 7."Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

The Church of Christ in Idaho Falls

January 23, 2022

Welcome!

We're a bible-based and non-denominational congregation of Christians meeting in Idaho Falls. All are welcome! Please join us in our worship services and classes.



**THANKS be to
GOD for His
indescribable
GIFT!
*2 Corinthians 9:15***

I will never forget to say thank you to God, even on the greyest days. My attitude will be one of humility and gratitude. Saying thank you to God is a daily practice that is absolutely necessary. If a day is not one of thankfulness, the practice has to be repeated until it becomes so. Gratitude is a necessity for those who seek to live a better life.

I pray that gratitude will bring humility. I pray that humility will bring me to live a better life.