

Repent or perish

By Jay Kelley
Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” Luke 13:2-3

It was a common Jewish misconception that bad things only happened to bad people. The obvious conclusion to such thinking was two-fold.

If nothing bad is happening, one must be alright, but when tragedy struck there was the implication of some hidden sin, especially if the victim had an exemplary piety. Such thinking was not limited to the Jews, nor is it limited to the Lord’s body today. It is a common fallacy of mankind in general.

It is often difficult to understand when tragedy befalls upright people and it is equally difficult not to cluck our tongues at tragedy which befalls those whose lifestyle is less moral than we might think is proper.

Yes, there are consequences to our actions, both for good and bad and personal responsibility is often lacking in our modern American society.

Our wealth and technology have given us the ability to often circumvent or at least delay the consequences of our abundant lifestyle, but we will eventually pay the piper.

However, others may pay the piper without having danced the dance. While it is true that such things are the result of a fallen world, that is not a comfort for the grieving, nor does it relieve the fear of such things happening to us or our loved ones.

Jesus addressed the real need — a right relationship with God which drives out any worry about our physical life.

God may or may not make us rich. He may or may not give us good health for all your life. He may or may not relieve us of the need to face tragedy in this life.

He will, however, take all His children home to live with Him eternally in heaven. He will also condemn all those who refuse the offer of clemency, paid for on the cross, to an eternity of Godless hell-fire.

There is the reality. Man thinks in terms of the material — health and prosperity. God thinks in terms of the eternal — the soul.

We need to think like God.
Jay Kelley is the evangelist for the church of Christ in Colby, Kan. His e-mail is jkelley@st-tel.net.



Kelley

Permission granted

Dr. W.G. Romine, II
This is what we long to hear...but our approach is saying, ready or not, here I come!

Can we really storm heaven? Let’s tackle that question a little bit later. First, let’s examine the word storm. The definitions might help us identify the futility of such an idea.

To storm in the non-weather since: attack violently — to attack or capture a place, especially a well defended one, suddenly and with great force (stormed the barricades); rush with violence or anger — to go somewhere in a rush, violently or angrily (stormed out of the room in a huff); take somebody or something by storm - to capture a place or overwhelm a body of enemies suddenly and with great force; to make a great and immediate impression on somebody or something.

How we function here and now matters greatly toward our eternal destination. Believe it or not, earth is our proving ground. Many heaven-bound Christians are so excited about leaving here; they neglect to prove their worth. I wonder what they are doing with the scripture which says, “The meek shall inherit the earth.” I guess if you’re not meek it doesn’t apply to you. Hum...I thought Christians were supposed to be meek.

Remember Moses, he was the meekest man who ever lived. He pastored a mega-church of over 3,000,000 for 40 years and still missed the Promised Land. That’s why some PK’s think pastoring sucks, but they’re wrong. Reading portions of scripture always leaves us with only half truths.

Believe it or not, Moses was perfect in his generation, just as King David was. In the New Testament on a High Holy Day, the Bible says, “After six days Jesus took with him Peter, and James, and John, and lead them up into a high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can whiten them. And there appeared

unto them Elijah and Moses: and they were talking to Jesus” - Mark 9:2-4

If Moses failed as a leader on earth some 1650 years earlier, what could he say in the presence of Jesus to encourage him now? Moses was faithful, but he did get upset once. The Bible records Moses as the friend of God. God don’t forget His friends! Do you? Well, do you? Are you the friend of God? This could matter in the end!

Now let’s tackle that opening question. Can we really storm heaven? Since we know violence will not open the pearly gates, I believe the only approach left is to make a great and immediate impression on God. In the words of the immortal SpongeBob, “Good luck with that!” If King David and his son Solomon could not impress God by building Him a house, what could we do in a last minute desperate attempt to enter His presence for eternity?

No one will enter heaven by mistake. Think of how difficult it is to enter secure buildings, airports, and border crossings into countries. Now imagine standing before heaven’s gate.

The metal detector has been replaced with a sin detector. All we have to do is pass a polygraph issued by a twelve foot sentinel angel. What did SpongeBob say? Actually, it won’t matter what SpongeBob said. Luck has nothing to do with the plan of God, but faith does.

We must live each day focused on God’s principals for kingdom living, and treat the earth as if we are to possess it as our promised land. Meekness is not weakness. Remember Moses, he was God’s champion long before King David was even born.

Dr. W.G. Romine, II, is from Redeeming Love Ministries in Colby.



Romine

Pope Benedict urges Brazilian youth to resist evil

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Pope Benedict XVI addressed sexual morality in a speech to tens of thousands of young Catholics, instructing young people to avoid premarital sex, remain faithful once they are married and to promote life from “its beginning to natural end.”

The latter was an oblique reference to abortion, the issue that has dominated Benedict’s first visit to Latin America since he succeeded John Paul II two years ago.

Earlier Thursday, the Vatican released a transcript that seemed to backtrack on the pope’s remarks during his flight from Rome, when he suggested that Catholic lawmakers who vote to legalize abortion should excommunicate themselves.

The Roman Catholic Church prohibits abortion, which is illegal in Brazil as in most of Latin America except in cases of rape or where the woman’s life is in danger. Yet while church law says anyone who procures an abortion is automatically excommunicated, the Vatican’s policy on poli-

ticians who favor abortion rights is the subject of a growing debate.

The pope’s speech at a Thursday evening youth rally at a soccer stadium in Sao Paulo was sure to resonate across the region, home to more than half the world’s 1.1 billion Roman Catholics.

Delivered in Portuguese, Benedict’s address was lengthy and full of moral instruction, notably concerning sexual conduct. Saying young people were the future of the church, the 80-year-old pope warned against drug use, violence, corruption and the temptations of wealth and power.

“Seek to resist forcefully the snares of evil that are found in many contexts,” he told the crowd of some 40,000, with thousands more camped outside the stadium.

He made no mention of the church’s battle against Brazil’s free distribution of condoms to combat AIDS, but implored his young audience to promote life from “its beginning to natural end.” The Vatican prohibits contraception, in addition to abortion, euthanasia and in vitro fertilization.

Benedict called for fidelity between spouses and chastity “both within and outside marriage” and instructed the young to build a society based on Christian moral values.

The crowd burst into a loud cheer when he mentioned his predecessor, the late John Paul, who visited Brazil three times. But they also shouted, “I love you,” when Benedict finished talking.

Many in the crowd shared the pope’s views — polls show that Brazilians are overwhelmingly against expanding access to abortion. But beyond the stadium, the pope’s comments on excommunicating politicians who favor legalizing abortion continued to provoke debate.

Catholics have been arguing whether politicians who approve abortion legislation, as well as doctors and nurses who take part in the procedure, subject themselves to automatic excommunication under church doctrine.

Asked during an in-flight news conference Wednesday whether legislators who legalized abortion in Mexico City should rightfully be

considered excommunicated, Benedict answered “Yes.”

His spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, later said Benedict did not intend to formally excommunicate anyone and on Thursday the Vatican released a slightly edited transcript that dropped the word “yes” from the pope’s response.

Lombardi told reporters such edits are common. “Every time the pope speaks off-the-cuff, the Secretariat of State reviews and cleans up his remarks,” he said.

The revision left many puzzled. Some newspapers in Brazil and Mexico declared Benedict approves of excommunication for politicians who support abortion rights, while others said exactly the opposite.

No matter what the pope says, some of the Mexican legislators involved said they still consider themselves Catholic.

Abortion did not come up in Benedict’s meeting with Thursday with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Lombardi said.



Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening Serendipity: 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Schedule of church services

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234 Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening Serendipity: 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Adult Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Kid’s Club for kids age 3-5th grade meets first Wednesday of the month from 5:15-6:45 p.m.; Youth Group for 6th-9th grade meets the first Wednesday of the month 6:30-8:00 p.m., and the second Wednesday 7:00-8:00 p.m.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Rocky Robbins, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Saturday Evening 7p.m. Worship, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10a.m., Sunday worship, 11a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 7p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

COLBY EVANGELISM CENTER, Rev. Robert Cooper, 815 West 3rd - 462-2062, Sunday School 9:45; Sunday service 10:00 and 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Friday Youth Power Hour at 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. E-mail: fccolby@st-tel.net

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD’S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 687-2565

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men’s Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children’s Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women’s Bible Study

To become a sponsor, call Crystal, Emily or Kristi today at 462-3963.

We appreciate the businesses who have been faithful contributors to this space.

Seamless Rain Gutter

Siding, Soffit, Fascia
FREE estimates
22 colors available

Installed by Ron Lucke

719-346-8840

cell 719-349-8840 Burlington CO

COMMERCIAL SIGNS
OF COLBY & HAYS
YOUR SIGN / Our Reputation
1185 Zelfer Ave. • Colby, KS

COLBY LUMBER
Bud Van Horn and Staff
1760 W. 4th 462-2181

COLBY FREE PRESS
155 W. 5th • Colby
462-3963