

**Sermon Notes of  
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on June 6, 2021:**

**"Speaking of Faith – Temporal Vs Eternal Thinking  
(2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1)"**

**[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman on Zoom shows us that eternal thinking, inspired by God, is so important and amazing compared to our normal temporal thinking.]**

Introduction:

- Last Sunday was Trinity Sunday, which marks a new time on the Christian calendar.
- Our denomination, GCI, has adopted the practice of using the Revised Common Lectionary, which is tied to the Annual Church Calendar.
- So before we get into today's message, let's look at these topics in more depth.

What is a lectionary?

- A lectionary is a collection of readings or selections from the Scriptures, arranged and intended for proclamation during the worship of the People of God.
- Lectionaries (tables of readings) were known and used in the fourth century, where major churches arranged the Scripture readings according to a schedule which follows the calendar of the church's year.
- The Revised Common Lectionary has 3 years called A, B and C where it works your way through the entire Bible with Scriptures for each Sunday.
- We are in year B – Season After Pentecost.
- Readings for this Sunday:
  - 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 12-15, 16-20 and 1 Samuel 11:14-15
  - Psalm 138
  - Genesis 3:8-15
  - Psalm 130
  - 2 Cor. 4:13-5:1
  - Mark 3:20-35

Importance of Church Worship Calendar:

- Old Testament: worship organized around seven annual festivals tied to the agricultural year.
- New Testament: worship is now centered on Jesus Christ.
- In John, Jesus commemorated the Lord's Supper and said as long as you practice this you are remembering me.
- So, this replaced the Spring OT festivals of the Passover and Unleavened Bread with Resurrection Sunday and the Lord's Supper.
- And then Pentecost replaced the Feast of Weeks.
- Now please take a look at the GCI Worship Calendar that was printed a few years ago, which shows the 6 major Christian celebration periods. (The dates are old not current).

# QCI WORSHIP CALENDAR



## ADVENT

A season of anticipation. Posture of waiting with expectation.



## CHRISTMAS

A season of joy and wonder - God is with us! Posture of contemplation and celebration.

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25



## EPIPHANY

A season of discipleship. Posture of sitting at the feet of Jesus and learning who he is.

EPIPHANY DAY

JANUARY 6

TRANSFIGURATION DAY

FEBRUARY 23



## LENT

A season of redemption and returning to the God revealed in Jesus. Posture of surrender - remembering Christ's sacrifice and atonement for us all.

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 5

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 9

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 10



## EASTER

A season of transformation - the inauguration of new creation. Posture of contemplation and celebration.

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 12

ASCENSION DAY

MAY 21

PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 31



## ORDINARY TIME

A season of discipleship - focused on Jesus' ministry and mission. Posture of renewed commitment to love God and our neighbors.

TRINITY SUNDAY

JUNE 7

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 22



- This next graphic shows how the Christian calendar is centered in Jesus



### What is Ordinary Time?

- The period following Pentecost until Advent Season, including three special celebrations: Holy Trinity Sunday (Sunday following Pentecost); All Saints Day (Sunday after Halloween); Christ the King Sunday (Sunday before Advent Season).
- This is also known as a Season of Discipleship – focused on Jesus’ ministry and mission.
- It’s also a posture of renewed commitment to love God and our neighbors.
- Tim Sitterley, our Regional Director, wrote this in an article entitled, “Ordinary, But Not Mundane”, which appeared in the Equipper on GCI’s website:

*The word “ordinary” here does not mean “routine” or “not special.” Instead, it refers to the “ordinal numbers” (first, second, third, etc.) used to name and count the Sundays (such as the Third Sunday after Pentecost). This term comes from the Latin ordinalis, meaning “numbered” or “ordered,” and tempus ordinarium, “measured time.”*

### Speaking of faith – temporal vs eternal thinking:

- Pastor Craig wants this phrase, “temporal vs eternal thinking” to really find a place in your mind and just let it sink in and then realize what a difference temporal vs eternal thinking makes.
- Paul is going to point this out in a major way in the passage we’re going to read.
- When we think of things temporal vs eternal, we will make a major change in terms of where we land in our view of the future and also where we land in our view of the present.
- So, this temporal vs eternal thinking is so important.
- Now, with eternal thinking, we have just a completely different outlook for the future, as compared to the not-yet-believers.
- And, the more we can adopt eternal thinking vs temporal thinking, the better off we’re going to be in terms of thinking of terms of hope and peace.
- The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) theme for this week is, “words of faith.”
- Now, a one word definition of faith is usually “trust” or “belief.”
- Here’s from GCI Statements of Belief: #14 – “Faith in God”:

*Faith in God is a gift of God, rooted in Jesus Christ and enlightened by the witness of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures. Through faith, God prepares and enables our minds to participate in Jesus Christ’s communion with the Father by the Spirit. Jesus Christ is the Author and Perfecter of our faith.*

- “Faith in God is a gift of God”:
  - This is a big statement because it’s not something WE do, or something we earn after repentance.
  - Faith is a gift, just as grace is a gift.
  - So, when we talk about having trust or belief in God and Jesus Christ, we need to understand that this didn’t come from ourselves.
  - Trust and belief comes from the Holy Spirit and universally it’s available to everybody.
  - But we also know that not everyone responds now, but there will come a time when they will have a chance to respond.
  - So, when you say to yourself, “If I only had more faith” – this is temporal thinking.
  - Eternal thinking causes us to realize that the amount of faith we have is given to us by God.
  - And, if there is anything we can do to restore or build up our faith, it’s simple to yield ourselves to God and ask Him for more faith.

- “Jesus Christ is the Author and Perfecter of our faith.”
  - The word “author” means that Jesus created our faith
  - The word “perfecter” means that over time that our faith is grounded and solidified by Jesus.
  - So, faith is not something we create or build up by ourselves.
  - If we want our faith to grow over time, we just simply reach out to Jesus and ask and yield ourselves to Him.
  - Jesus renews our hearts and minds daily, as we’ll see today in these verses.
  - Because of Jesus, our eternal thinking also grows over time along with our faith.
- We also need to realize that temporal thinking leads us to: fear, shame, guilt, and doubt.
- If you are a not-yet-believer, temporal thinking is all you have.
- Now, eternal thinking provides no fear, no shame, no guilt, and no doubt, because of Jesus’ resurrection we are promised to be raised with Him at the Second Coming.
- And eternal thinking is forever and it’s also present because we have it now.
- We have eternal life right now and scripture says that, eternally speaking, we are right now seated in the heavens with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, even though we are physically here on earth.
- So, the next time you start to struggle, you start to worry, say to yourself, “This is temporal thinking.”
- And then, as a believer, start to focus your mind on eternal thinking, what we have, where we are headed because we are going to participate in that same relationship that the Father, Son and Spirit have had since the beginning of time.
- Now, as we’ve seen through the entire book of Acts, Paul went through a lot of tough times, even though he was chosen by God to bring about God’s plan to the Gentiles.
- Yet, Paul didn’t have this Godly cloak of protection put around him.
- However, Paul was saved from an early death even though he went through a whole lot of terrible traumas.
- In this passage, Paul is speaking to us from experience and he gives us comfort and a new perspective to face the challenges of life.

**2 Corinthians 4:13 (NRSV), But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture – “I believed, and so I spoke” (Psalm 116:30) – we also believe, and so we speak, 14) because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence.**

- Right here, what Paul is saying is eternal thinking.
- This is a given that we will be raised with Jesus – there is no doubt about it.
- We have been raised to eternal life right now, even though we are still physically alive in a temporal existence.
- This means that every single thing you go through in this life, you need to keep this eternal thinking in the forefront of your decisions.
- This creates great peace and great hope because eternal thinking is so wonderful.

**15) Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.**

- Now scripture tells us that all, through Jesus, have been given grace and have been reconciled into a relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit.
- But, not everyone has experienced that grace, yet.
- But as God's grace extends to more and more people who experience it, this increases thanksgiving and the glory of God.
- Now, we know that the Holy Spirit has invited us to participate in this process of sharing God's grace and our faith with others.

**16) So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.**

- When we are engaged in temporal thinking we lose heart.
- But when we are engaged in eternal thinking we don't lose heart.
- It's a natural part of the existence for our bodies (Paul calls it our earthly tent in verse 5 and outer nature here in verse 16) to waste away or decline.
- We were created to be temporary, but now have been given eternal life.
- When we die our physical death, our spirit rises and joins the Father, Son, and Spirit and awaits that physical resurrection into a glorified body at the return of Jesus.
- And in this life, our spirit is being transformed from the truth of our being to the way of our being day by day.
- This spiritual transformation accomplished by the Holy Spirit changes our inner nature and creates within us a greater capacity to dwell on eternal thinking instead of temporal thinking.

**17) For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure,**

- Now, we're going through a lot of issues as our outer nature is wasting away.
- We engage in trips to the hospital, trips to the hospice and trips to funeral homes have memorial celebrations of our loved ones.
- Now many of us are dealing with mobility issues and with cancer and with dementia of the mind.
- But with all of this, please know and remember what Paul tells us, "For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure."

**8) because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.**

**2 Corinthians 5:1, For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**

- So Pastor Craig's question to all of us is, "So, how is your tent doing?"
- As we get older, our physical bodies, our tent changes and deteriorates.
- But, we need to know that whatever state our tent is in, God has created an eternal building for you that will never waste away.
- We need to realize that no matter what happens to our tent, we are secure in the hands of God.
- And this momentary period of affliction, as Paul called it, is preparing us for "an eternal weight of glory."

- And now Nan is going to lead us in communion and communion is part of our eternal thinking and what Jesus means to us.

### Communion: Nan Kuhlman:

- Communion is a sacrament, which is defined as a Christian ritual.
- A ritual is a behavior or an action that we repeat on a regular basis, because it's a meaningful symbol or reminder of an important component of our faith.
- Have you wondered why Jesus chose to use bread and wine for this ritual?
- Jesus could have chosen from various things such as a special handshake in remembrance of Him.
- What's so interesting is that food and drink nourish our bodies.
- And in Biblical times meat was a luxury and bread was what people relied upon for most of their daily diet.
- We also know that clean water wasn't always available and wine was a common fluid to drink.
- So, in the cultural context of that day, bread and wine were significant.
- Jesus took these two items that were part of people's everyday lives to help people think of Him as an integral part of their ordinary daily lives.
- Even today when we reach for that piece of bread and that glass of wine or grape juice, we need to remember that Jesus is a part of our ordinary lives and is always with us.
- And here's another thought – what happens to those elements when we eat that bread and drink that wine?
- Our bodies digest them and these elements then become a part of our bodies.
- Perhaps Jesus wants us to physically understand how our relationship with Him fills our very being.
- Jesus wants us to make Him a part of us, to rely upon Him to give us the strength to love each other and to love the world.
- So the taking of communion is a chance for us to say, "Jesus, I know You are with me along with the joys and sorrows of human life."
- We also need to ask ourselves, "Are we fueled by love or the fumes of ego?"
- We can be so thankful that Jesus is in us enabling us to love as He loved.

**1 Corinthians 11:23 (NRSV), For I repeat from the Lord what I also handed on to you. That the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread 24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

- So, as we take the bread, we remember that Jesus is with us in our human bodies.
- (The partaking of bread.)

**25) In the same way he took the cup also after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me. For as**

**often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."**

- So, as we take the wine or juice, we should remember Jesus' love for us and all the world, because this is what makes it possible for us to love ourselves and to love the world.
- (The partaking of wine or grape juice.)

Closing prayer