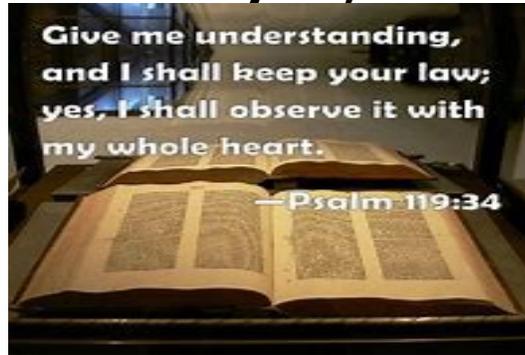




Lewiston Church of Christ

February 18, 2018



Weekly Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:45 AM

Worship 10:45 AM

Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

Randy Thornton: 208-758-3289

DEACONS

Mark Whittaker-Outreach

Tom Hill-Finance

Rick Richardson-Education

AREAS OF SERVICE

Joe & Carrie Bieren – Fellowship

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Cody & Doyle Dawes- Grounds

Ken Vogtman – Building

Custodian – Jennifer Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

Secretary – Renee' Hill

Are You Free?

In her wonderful song, "America the Beautiful" (1895), Katharine Lee Bates wrote:

*America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!"*

Bates understood that law and liberty need each other to survive. If you want liberty without the law, you will get neither. If you want the rule of law without liberty, you will get the rule of tyranny, not law. Liberty and law must walk together.

Some 3,000 years before Bates was born, the inspired Psalmist made the same point: "And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts." (Psalm 119:45). The Psalmist understood that to walk in freedom, we must seek God's precepts first. The Hebrew word for precept is **piqqudim**, used 24 times in the Bible (21 times in Psalms 119). A precept is a general rule or principle that we apply to make our lives better. The Psalmist always uses **piqqudim** in a life-giving and life-sustaining way, but never apart from the guidance of God. Here is how **piqqudim** is described in the Psalms:

- ◆ They are ordained by God (Psalms 119:4)
- ◆ They are meant to be obeyed (Psalm 119:56)
- ◆ They are kept in the heart (Psalm 119:69)
- ◆ By them, God revives us (Psalm 119:93)
- ◆ They build up our understanding (Psalm 119:104)
- ◆ They help us to hate false ways (Psalm 119:128)
- ◆ They deserve our love (Psalm 119:159)
- ◆ They are something we choose (Psalm 119:173)

Do you think you are free? Indeed, you may be free to pursue pleasure to the point of destroying yourself and others with casual sex, drugs, or crime. But that's slavery, not freedom. True freedom begins when you confirm your soul in self-control over your urges. But liberty will end right where it began if you fail to seek God's precepts first. The tree of liberty cannot grow or bear fruit apart from the soil of God's guidance.

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