

Announcements and Church News

Our Sick

Alison Harris in ProMedica in Palm Harbor for pneumonia and rehab for wrist injury; William McRoy— back pain; Wayne Bishop— has Bell's Palsy; Winston Sandlin— In Belleair Rehab; Lori Williams—recent eye surgery; Sandy Caldwell—for pain; Teresa Broyles, Alison Harris and Vicky Lube—cancer trmt; Joyce Stanley, Kim Taylor, Fran Barclay, Nancy VanWinkle, health issues.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS; Samantha Jones brother, Eddie/rehab and son Joshua; Carol Mitchell— tumor on liver; The Stewart's—bro-in-law Russell Holt/ injuries; Clifton Reynold's son Bryce; Susan Villoch's dad James/heart issue; The Stewart's neighbors Rich & Betty /health issues; The Kozola's son Tim; Carol Untied's—dad and stepmother's home damaged from a tornado also her dad had recent bypass surgery; and Uncle David/health issues; Sam York—recent surgery; David Sain's—wife Phyllis; Yllka Bejo's—mother; Van Stewart's—aunt, Linda Parsons; Dianne Stewart's—brother, Bobby Goodfield; The Stingles—niece's baby; Paula Davis'—niece/lupus; Darrell Broking/in hospital for health issues;

PRAYERS FOR CANCER:

Ranny Reeves neighbor, Linda Wall; Linda Haddock's niece, June McCray; Carol Untied's stepmother Emily; Debbie Methvin's—co-workers father Vasilos and Michele Fuguero; Deb Adams friends son, Jason; Van Stewart's sister Tracey and cousin Paula; Ronnie Somerville's dad, Ron; Mattie Simmons friend William; Sandy Caldwell's bro-in-law Larry; Kay Jessup's friend, Lou Fiores and wife Rose
INMATES: Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

OUR SERVICE MEN: Sam Wagner and cousin Mark Wagner (Navy) Austin Reyes (Marine) Matthew Holleran (Army)

OUR SHUT-IN AT HOME: Winston Sandlin

Activities

NEXT LADIES BIBLE CLASS— Meets Friday, September 16th at 1:00pm in the small building.

YOUTH SEMINAR—At the South Florida Ave. church of Christ in Lakeland, September 16th to 18th Flyers are in the foyer.

LADIES DAY—At the Orange Street Church of Christ in Auburndale, FL on September 24th. Flyers are in the foyer.

GOSPEL MEETING— Mark your calendars for our upcoming meeting from October 16th to the 19th. The title is A Mountain of Blessings with guest speaker James Dale of Glendale, Arizona. Flyers can be found in the foyer.

RESPONDED— Jackie Williams came forward last Wednesday evening asking for forgiveness and her desire to place membership. We are thankful for her courage and love for the Lord to make things right.

SYMPATHY—Our love and deepest sympathy to Alison Harris and family. Her husband Dick passed away on Friday, September 2nd. Remember Alison and family in prayer as they mourn the loss of their dear loved one.

CONGRATULATIONS— To Ben Follis (past member) and wife Annie who gave birth to a son on August 29th. His name is Atreju' Olen Follis and he weighed 7lbs 10oz.

REMINDER—Weekly sermons are available on CD, our website and livestream on Facebook and YouTube Sundays at 10:30 & 5:00pm and Wednesdays at 7:00pm.

Those Serving Today

Announcements—Charles Broyles

Song Leaders—Matt Pryor/Jesse Lancaster

Opening Prayer—James George/Joe Bonelli

Lord's Table—Van Stewart

Closing Prayer—Bob Haddock/David Jones

Birthdays This Week

Linda Kozola—September 5th

Shea Owens—September 7th

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 4, 2022
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Gospel Broadcasting Network
 http://gbntv.org YouTube
 https://spiritualsword.org/

SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY TV Channel 44 (WTOG) at 7:30am Sunday YouTube watch & hear Phil Sanders

THE INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL HOUR Broadcasting the Gospel Since 1934 YouTube (24/7) to hear Jeff Archey

House to House Heart to Heart www.HouseToHouse.com

FSOP fsop.net

Soaring for Souls soaringforsouls.com

Childhaven, Inc. Childhaven Children's Home in Cullman, AL www.childhaven.com

FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME fairhavenchildrenshome.com

India Missions cocindia.net

Arnold Town Road Church of Christ—Darrell Broking
 Chalmette Church of Christ—Mark Lance
 South Anchorage Church of Christ—Michael Dale

Elders:

Joe Bonelli Charles Broyles
 James George

Deacons:

Max Herman
 Van Stewart

Preacher: Charles Broyles

Office: 727-446-4808 Cell #: 423-240-9075

Sunday Bible Study—9:30AM

Charles Broyles

Major Prophets: Ezekiel 23

Sunday Worship—10:30AM

Charles Broyles

The Prison Evangelist

Acts 16:30-34

Sunday Worship—5:00 PM

Charles Broyles

Confidence In Our Relationship To The Lord

1 John 1:57

Ladies Bible Study—Friday

September 16th at 1:00pm

Wed. Bible Study—7:00PM

Charles Broyles

Attributes of God

All of our services are available on Facebook Live and

YouTube YouTube Live!



From the Preacher's Pen

THE BIBLE IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND?

David Sproule

How many times have you heard it said? Or maybe you were the one saying it? “The Bible is too hard to understand.” People have been saying that for years. But, is that true? Should we set the Bible aside and dismiss it as an incomprehensible book? Or have we maybe been misinformed and the Bible can actually be understood? Let’s consider this.

First of all, who is saying that the Bible is hard to understand? I have known people over the years who had not read the Bible but were making claims about the Bible. If you haven’t read the Bible, then how do you qualify to offer any evaluation of it? Or maybe you are one who has tried to read it but you have found it hard to understand. Why is that?

Sometimes things we have heard cause us to think the Bible is hard to understand. Some have said over the years that “only the clergy could understand it.” That conditions the mind of the average person to think, “Well, then I won’t be able to understand it.” Perhaps you’ve started to read the Bible but didn’t expect to understand it. Again, the mind is already closed to the possibility and is preconditioned to “not” understand.

If you are one who has thought the Bible is “too hard to understand,” can I ask you a sincere question—How much have you read? What parts have you read? When someone who has never read the Bible asks me where they should start, I usually tell them to start with the book of John, then read Acts after that, and then go back to Genesis or to Matthew. John is easy to understand and it’s all about Jesus. After reading through John, can you still say, “The Bible is hard to understand”? I’ve never met anyone who could still claim that.

Admittedly, some parts of the Bible are difficult to understand, such as reading about animal sacrifices, or reading the names of people and places that we don’t recognize, or reading figurative language that is not familiar to us. Peter made a statement about Paul’s epistles and said, “in which are some things hard to understand” (2 Pet. 3:15-16). Someone might say, “Well, there you go! Even Peter said it was hard.” But wait? Notice that Peter says it was “SOME” things hard to understand. Not all. Not most.

Here’s something we need to grasp. God gave us the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16), and He said that it could be understood. Paul wrote, “when you read” what he had written, “you can understand my insight” (Eph. 3:3-4). We can understand what Paul understood and such is expected (Eph. 5:17; John 8:32).

So, let me encourage you to open your Bible. Expect that you will understand it. Ask God to help you. Then, start with the book of John and enjoy reading about Jesus.

While some have suggested over the years that the Bible is hard to understand, perhaps we should see what the Bible has to say about that. Luke wrote about the life of Christ to a man named Theophilus so that he “may know the certainty of those things in which [he was] instructed” (1:4). Jesus Himself said, “You shall know the truth” (John 8:32). In the Old Testament, Moses wrote of gathering “all Israel” together “every seven years.” At that time, the leaders were to “read this law before...men and women and little ones...that they

may hear... learn...observe...and that their children...may hear and learn” (Deut. 31:9-13). The Bible states that it can be and it was understood. We saw in the last article that God is the one who gave us both the Bible and our minds, and He said that our minds could understand the Book that He gave us (Eph. 3:3-4; 5:17).

So, if the Bible is capable of being understood, what can a person do to understand the Bible? Let’s make a list.

1. Truly believe in God (Heb. 11:6).
2. Truly believe that the Bible is God’s Word (2 Pet. 1:20-21).
3. Trust the Word of God (1 Thess. 2:13; Psa. 119:42).
4. Show reverence for the Word of God (Psa. 119:10-11, 97).
5. Have a love for the truth (2 Thess. 2:10; Prov. 23:23).
6. Have a desire to know the truth (John 7:17; Matt. 5:6).
7. Have a willingness to study (Acts 17:11).
8. Put true diligence into your study (2 Tim. 2:15).
9. Expect to understand it (Eph. 3:3-4; 5:17; 2 Tim. 3:14-15).
10. Pray about it (1 John 5:14; Matt. 7:7-8; Jas. 1:5; 4:2).

Now that you’ve made these pre-reading preparations:

1. Read it.
2. Keeping reading it. Don’t stop.
3. Compare various reliable translations (KJV, NKJV, ASV, NASB, ESV).
4. Skip over any parts that you don’t understand. Come back to those later.
5. Read it over and over. My grandfather told me that he read through the Bible 50 times and saw things the 50th time through that he had not seen before.
6. Use the easy-to-understand parts to help shed light on the not-as-easy parts. Let the Bible be its own commentary.
7. Mark in your Bible, especially noting in the margin other verses in the Bible that help to explain that verse.

Is there more you can do? Certainly. But the best way to understand the Bible is to read it. Don’t take someone else’s word for what it says. Read it. Understand it yourself. Then, apply what it says to your life.

Never let the things you WANT make you overlook the things you HAVE.

**I cannot give you a guaranteed way to succeed,
but I can give you a guaranteed way to fail —
try to please everybody!**