

June 6, 2021

Enjoy Studying the Word of God

by Darrell Trammel

“Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1)

I love the way Paul writes. He lays everything out building one thing upon another to reach a conclusion. Because of this, though, you have to read longer passages to get the full context that he is using to make a point. Peter said of Paul's writings, *“There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.”* (2 Peter 3:16) There are those that twist Paul's writings, but they do that with all the scriptures. They either set out to twist them, or they won't accept what is written and so try to change them. People still do that today, but I digress from the point I wanted to make.

When Paul says, “since we have these promises...” we should immediately want to list out the promises working backwards from there to get them all. Context is always key to understanding what is written. So what are the promises?

God will dwell with us and set us apart (6:16-18)

In Christ, we become the righteousness of God (5:21)

We have a dwelling place with God in heaven (5:1-5)

We are being prepared for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison (4:16-18)

A case could be made that we could keep going, but Paul is driving the point home that we have so much to be thankful for and to look forward to. When you have something valuable, you don't throw it away! Cleanse yourselves, leave every defilement behind, living in Christ and striving for holiness! Paul has spent some time getting up to this point. Afterward, he changes subjects, so that tells me this is a very important point in this letter.

I fear that sometimes we are in too big of a hurry with our study of God's word. We want to get to the point, much like someone might skip a big section of a novel to find out how the story ends. If you skip to chapter 7 from chapter 1, you have missed a LOT! There is no motivation to fulfill 2 Corinthians 7:1 if we didn't read the previous context. Slow down. Take your time studying up to the pinnacle of a context. Enjoy the journey of discovery in God's word! It's worthwhile.

May God bless you as you feed your spirit from His word!

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

No dates to announce at this time.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Divine Promises

by Warren Berkley

{Not original with me. Cannot locate the source but worth a look}

God's presence -- "I will never leave thee" (Hebrews 13:5)

God's protection -- "I am thy shield" (Genesis 15:1)

God's power -- "I will strengthen thee" (Isaiah 41:10)

God's provision -- "I will help thee" (Isaiah 41:10)

God's leading -- "And when He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them" (John 10:4)

God's purposes -- "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil" (Jeremiah 20:11)

God's rest -- "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28)

God's cleansing -- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)

God's goodness -- "No good thing will He withhold from them that work uprightly" (Psalm 84:11)

God's faithfulness -- "The Lord will not forsake His people for His great name's sake" (1 Samuel 12:22)

God's guidance -- "The meek will He guide" (Psalm 25:9)

God's wise plan -- "All things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28)

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson had surgery this week for his back pain.

Doug Adair is struggling with back pain and is seeking a second opinion before deciding on treatment.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing cancer treatments.

Nancy Richardson is doing better but still dealing with breathing problems.

Sue Stanberry is moving into assisted living.

Karen Hallmark has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes.

Morgan O'Hair is waiting to see another doctor to treat an infection.

Dinah Williams continues to be homebound due to mobility issues.

Bobbie Gibbons continues to be limited by balance and breathing issues. She could use encouragement.

Tyler Hairston has cancer.

Don and Alene Simmons are both suffering from pain and mobility limitations. Don had surgery recently.

Dorothy Steadman is continuing to recover from her recent stroke. She is staying with Pam.

Faye Estes has been diagnosed with colon cancer. Please arrange visits through Elaine.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"

(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

Darrell Trammel
512-756-4493 Office
Darrell@
oakswestchurchofChrist.com

Elders

George Gresham
Jim Johnson
Darrell Trammel

Contact Us

Address:
P.O. Box 675
Burnet, TX 78611

Call:
(512) 756-4493

E-Mail:
oakswestchurch@gmail.com

Website:
oakswestchurchofchrist.com