

Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. • Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Services are live-streamed to our website: oakswestchurchofchrist.com

JULY 28, 2024

The Bible Is Fundamental

by Ken Weliever

This humorous story has been told by preachers through the years. In fact, I've probably told it. However, the Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching and Preachers claims this actually happened to Joseph Parker, a 19th century preacher in London.

An old lady waited on Parker in his vestry after a service to thank him for the help she received from his sermons. "You do throw such wonderful light on the Bible, doctor," she said. "Do you know that until this morning, I had always thought that Sodom and Gomorrah were man and wife?"

However, as far fetched as this sounds, the Barna Research Group has conducted surveys through the years that show "many Americans have a woeful knowledge of the Bible." In fact, Barna says we are "a nation of Biblical illiterates." Unfortunately, that is too often true among Christians. I have actually seen people searching for the book of Hebrews in the Old Testament!

While implied in our 2024 theme, Fundamentals of Faith, that the Bible is fundamental, we have not actually considered this point in a single post.

We know the Bible says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17), But how can we grow our faith

through the Bible's teaching? Here are five suggestions.

#1. By Receiving The Bible as God's Word.

A receiver must be turned on to transmit the information. You can hear without really listening. You need a open and clear reception to the Word. The Bible says of those who first heard the gospel preached in Acts that "Those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them" (Ax. 2:41)

To receive is to welcome. To accept. To pay close attention.

We need to be like the Thessalonians whom Paul said "received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God" (1 Thess. 2:13)

#2 By Reading It

Paul wrote, "when you read you can understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Eph. 3:4). The apostle exhorted young Timothy to "give attention to reading" (1 Tim. 4:13).

A planned Bible reading program will help you read the Bible in an organized and timely fashion. In fact, reading it through in one year is an easy goal to obtain. The Five

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

Summer Series - Bulverde church of Christ is having their summer lesson series each Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Singing - Cedar Park August 9

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, August 16-18

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

Day Bible Reading Program by Mark Roberts is one I recommend.

Reading the Bible will not only inform you, it will encourage you. Motivate you. Inspire you. Comfort you. Assure you. And strengthen you.

#3 By Researching It.

There is a difference between reading and studying. Reading is a good start, but the next step is research. Those in Berea “searched the scriptures.” That means to scrutinize. To investigate, interrogate, determine, and discern.

There are six age old questions that still work and help you in digging deeper in your Bible study. When reading a text ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why? Wherefore?

#4 By Remembering It

The Bible writers often challenge us to “remember.” Peter admitted to his readers that he wrote about issues they knew about and were established in but wanted to “remind” them (2Pet. 1:12-13) Paul warned the Ephesian Elders to “Watch and remember” (Ax. 20:31). Jesus institute the Lord’s Supper to be eaten weekly so we could “remember Him” (1 Cor. 11:24-5).

The Psalmist penned, “Your word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Ps. 111:9).

#5 By Reflecting on it

To reflect means to meditate. To ponder. To consider. To contemplate. To deliberate. To think about.

Psalm 119 is a great passage that extols the benefits and blessings of reflecting on the Word of God. What it means. And how it applies to our lives. David’s resolution ought to be ours when he wrote, “I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways” (Ps. 119:115).

Paul exhorted to think on things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable. Then concluded, “if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Phil. 4:8-9).

Finally, the words of Howard Hendricks ought to be taken to heart by every Christian. “The Bible was written not to satisfy your curiosity but to help you conform to Christ’s image. Not to make you a smarter sinner but to make you like the Savior. Not to fill your head with a collection of biblical facts but to transform your life.”

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is at home and on constant oxygen.

Terry Behrns is recovering at his sister’s home

Jay Parker’s father has cancer and they have been traveling to help him.

Jimmy Stinnett is struggling from his leukemia and is under treatment.

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)

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.

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