

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Jon Barry

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Rodney Ellis Jerry Schnelle
Joseph Barry Pete Rowland

Prayers

Cole Meador Jack Calvert

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Jon Barry

Scripture Reading

Daniel Allgor

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Jerry Schnelle Rodney Ellis

Prayers

Daniel Allgor Bill Brittenham

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Daniel Allgor

Song Leader

Clay Morris

Prayers

Rodney Ellis Mark Davis

Invitation

Bryan Garlock

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Clay Morris

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16;
1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

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The Burden of Proof

Bryan Garlock

The phrase “burden of proof” can be defined as “the obligation to prove one’s assertion” (Oxford). In other words, when one makes a claim, he must have evidence to corroborate his claim. This is necessary, or else we create a situation where unverified assertions abound and potential error goes unchecked.

This is especially true when one espouses a religious doctrine and treats it as if it is rooted in Scripture. Unfortunately, the religious world is hardly ever held accountable for their beliefs and practices. When they are, those questioned view any request/demand for evidence as a personal attack, or more specifically, an attack on their relationship with Jesus.

However, if one makes a theological or doctrinal claim and touts that the Bible supports their statement of belief, then they must be able and willing to defend their words, for the burden of proof falls on them.

When one holds to a teaching that they cannot defend, either they are stating an erroneous belief that has no roots in Scripture, or they are parroting a scriptural belief that they learned from someone else and not from their own Bible Study (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17).

Of all people, we Christians, we must be able and willing to defend our practices — any religious belief that we claim is done “in the name of Jesus”, that is, by His authority (Col. 3:17). It is the only way we can ensure that we are doctrinally pure and that we are practicing the truth. Even more so, being diligent to come to the knowledge of the truth is the only way we will point sinners to the truth that sets them free.

Perhaps we will never be asked to defend our faith. However, we will give account to One who will ask for the burden of proof — Jesus the Christ (Matt. 7:21-23). What will our answer

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Willie Margaret Mobley, Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, W.H. McFerrin, and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Ladies Bible Class: The next class will be on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020. There will be no class in December.

Please pick up some invite cards and ask for Bible studies. See Bryan if you need any help with home studies.

(Continued from page 1)
be? “But, that is what my parents taught.” “But, that is what I always heard.” “But, that is what the preacher said.” “But, I didn’t see anything wrong with it.” “Lord, I had faith in this doctrine because I searched out your will and your word guided me to this conclusion — here is my evidence.”

If we cannot give a Scriptural explanation as to why we believe or participate in something, why do we believe or participate in that thing? In other words, it is foolish to claim to have faith in something we cannot even defend. In fact, that is not faith at all.

Let us provide an example of this principle. Why do we partake of the Lord’s Supper each first day of the week, especially when others partake daily, quarterly, or even only a few times a year? If we posit that the Lord’s Supper is to be taken weekly on the first day of

the week and not at any other time, we have the obligation to prove our assertion, just as others have an obligation to prove the frequency of their practice. It is not enough to say, “This is the way we have always done it.”

Looking at the evidence, one can only establish a weekly communion. In Acts 20.7 we learn by apostolic example that the disciples came together on the first day of the week to partake of the Lord’s Supper. Thus, God specifically shows us the day of which we are to partake — Sunday. Elsewhere, Paul told the Corinthians to partake of the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner when they come together as a church (1 Cor. 11.17-34). From these facts alone we can deduce that disciples of Jesus came together as a church on every first day of the week (cf. 1 Cor. 16.1-2; Heb. 10.24-25), and when they came together as a church they partook of the Lord’s Supper.

Now is the time for personal application. Consider your beliefs and practices — you have the burden of proof, why do you believe what you believe and practice? If you cannot answer, would it not be wise to cease the doctrine and search God’s word to confirm and verify your beliefs?

Learn More About The Bible

Bill Brittenham

I imagine all of us would like to learn more about the Bible. But how do we do that? The answer is really quite simple: *“To learn more about the Bible, learn more about the Bible.”* Yes, I know that sounds strange and maybe even confusing. Let me explain.

In order to learn more about the Bible, the best way is to increase what you know about the Bible. None of us would expect our first grader to start math with calculus or algebra. We understand that in order to reach that level of the subject, we need to start with basic

principles and concepts. Then as we progress, we add more knowledge to what we have already learned.

The Bible is no different. You can learn about some of the Bible from just picking it up and randomly beginning anywhere. You can learn about the Bible by listening to sermons or talking with other Christians. But to really learn about the Bible and understand it, you must start with some basic knowledge and progressively add to that foundation. Knowing that there are Old and New Testaments is great. But do you know and understand the differences between the two? Learning the books of the Bible is necessary. You will have a hard time following sermons if you don’t know where Daniel or Philemon or Ruth are. But do you understand how Ruth fits into the Old Testament? Our children start with the very basics of the Bible. The two Testaments and the books of the Bible. Then they will start at the beginning and learn some of the basic facts and history throughout the Bible. The depth of this teaching is not very great and they may not remember who or what is found in each part of the Book later. But the history and meaning through the Bible are absolutely necessary to understand much of the scriptures.

As an example, consider the book of Hebrews. If you read and study this book you can certainly learn much. But without a pretty good knowledge and understanding of the Old Testament, much of the book will have little meaning. However, once you know about the Old Testament law and priesthood, Hebrews

if filled with such rich comparisons to Jesus and the church you will be amazed.

So, practically speaking, how can you learn more about the Bible? **First**, I would suggest you spend some time at the beginning of the book in the index. Memorize the books of the Bible and know how to find each book’s place. Get to the point where someone calls out a book and you can turn quickly and find it. (Electronic Bibles make this easier. But to properly understand the books, learn to do this with a hardcopy Bible.) **Second**, find a workbook that provides a historical overview of the Bible. Learn where to find the Tower of Babel or Paul’s visit to Ephesus or Daniel in the lion’s den. **Third**, read through the Bible to reinforce your knowledge of where and how everything fits together. How is God’s reaction to Adam and Eve’s sin in Genesis fulfilled in Jesus? Why is the reference to Jesus as the son of David so significant? What does it really mean that Christians are a royal priesthood?

The Bible is a wonderful book. But it is also God talking to us about things that are vital for us to know. You will find that as you learn more about the Bible, you will be able to learn even more about the Bible. Many times when I read a familiar passage I remember another scripture that complements or explains it. But if you do not know the Bible, you will miss the way the whole book ties so beautifully together. Truly, the Bible must be the word of God.

(Note: If you need help in developing a learning plan or recommendations for study guides or where to find an overview of the Bible, please ask me, Bryan, the elders or someone else. But make it a goal to learn even more about the Bible all the time.)