

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Bill Brittenham

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Clay Morris Jack Calvert

Jon Barry

Prayers

Bryan Garlock Jerry Schnelle

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Scripture Reading

Song Leader

Lord's Supper

Prayers

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements

Song Leader

Prayers

or difficult. The Bible is so full of the knowledge and wisdom of God, that we can devote our lives to its study and never fully know all there is to learn. And we must apply that learning and knowledge to ourselves.

Oh yes. And let us not neglect to use all that knowledge and understanding to produce fruit, good works and righteousness.

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

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.

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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



Volume XXV

September 27, 2020

Issue 40

"We"

Bill Brittenham

At an early age I developed a belief that everything in life could be understood by asking "The 5 W's"; Who, What, Where, When and Why. My Grandpa was not always a patient person, but I guess because I was his first grandchild, he tolerated my constant questions. For that I am thankful. As I have lived way past childhood, I have continued to ask the same question in most every part of my life. Even in studying the Bible, my habit has been to ask these questions.

Who is speaking? Who is being spoken to?

What is happening? What are the circumstances?

Where is this happening?

When did it take place?

Why is it recorded in the Bible? Why did it take place?

We usually say that understanding the answers to these questions helps us understand the context of the passage and therefore better understand what God is telling us. I have preached sermons about

how to study the Bible and given these questions as an example of good Bible study. But the more I study and continue to try and understand God and His revelation, I realize there is a sixth "W" that is perhaps even more important for us than the original five "W's". And that is the short word, "We".

Learning the answers to Who, What, Where, When and Why are definitely valuable and provide us with knowledge, and understanding of Bible passages. But there is another factor that we probably already know, but sometimes overlook. Very little, if anything in the Bible is recorded specifically about those of us living today. That does not mean it has no value for us or that there is no application for us now. And that is why "We" is so important. We can learn and understand the history and facts of the scriptures and still be ignorant of what they mean to us, how they apply to us or how God expects us to mirror our lives to those facts and teachings. Look at a few examples.

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, Ann Thomas and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Please remember **Maxine Burnham** and **Jean Cronce** in your prayers.

We are very thankful that **Donna Mobley's** heart surgery was successful. She is recovering in the hospital in Plano and then will stay with Tanya for a while.

Pete Rowland has major heart blockage and may require surgery.

Here is the current schedule of services:

Bible Study: 9:30 AM

Services: 10:15 AM

Kids Only: 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Sunday and Wednesday Bible Studies are in **Galatians**.

Additionally, we are having studies on the life of Peter:

Monday: 7:00 PM

Thursday: 7:00 PM

Ladies Bible Class:

Next class will be October 13th.

Who? The entire Old Testament was written to and about people and events quite foreign to us. They lived a long time ago in lands far from ours. Their laws and customs were strange and unrelated to ours in so many ways. While the history of the OT peoples is interesting, remember that God

did not “waste” pages in His Bible about things that have no application to godly people throughout time. When we come to the NT, even though many of the OT events did not specifically apply to people at that time, Jesus and the apostles frequently referred back to the OT for contemporary lessons. Remember the command Paul gave in **1 Cor. 10:11**, “*Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*” And do not forget **Heb. 11** with all the examples of faith from the OT. When we study the OT, let us remember “We”. What can we learn? Should we imitate or flee from the examples? How does this apply to us?

What? While we will probably never face the exact situations found throughout the Bible (a lion’s den, a serpent in a garden or a burning bush), the examples of how godly people reacted and remained faithful (or not) to God are warnings and admonitions we must follow. Several years ago, there was a saying, “**What Would Jesus Do?**” And that should be a primary question we ask ourselves about everything we do. Thanks be to God that He has recorded so many examples of what His servants did in so many different circumstances.

Where? Where were David’s eyes when he lusted after Bathsheba? Where was Saul’s heart when he listened to the people instead of God? While “where” usually makes us think of a place, it can also mean the situation. Where was Daniel when he continued to pray to God? Where was Paul when he stood up for the gospel? **Dan. 6.** Consider the physical and spiritual places. Daniel was in his room with the windows open with his heart toward God. Paul was in prison with his heart toward God. **Psalms 1:1** “*How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand*

in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!” Where are we? Where should we be?

When? This can be one of the most frustrating questions to answer if we are trying to determine the date of most events in the Bible or even a sequence of events. Why? Simply because God didn’t usually record dates or events that can be accurately fixed. But why didn’t He? One reason is simply because He is God. **Isa. 55:8-9.** And this is an important lesson for “We”. We know this, but our curiosity may overcome our knowledge. Eve knew what God had said, yet her curiosity got the better (or worse) of her. **Gen. 3:1-6.** God has given us EVERYTHING that pertains to life and godliness. **2 Pet. 1:3, 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Rev. 22:18-19.** Is it not best and safest to simply accept what God HAS revealed and not try to go beyond that? Remember the old adage, “Speak where the Bible speaks and be silent here the Bible is silent.” But we can also apply “When” to circumstances. For example, the council in Jerusalem in Acts 15. The discussion about whether God expected the Gentile Christians to be circumcised occurred “when” the church was new and God’s revelation was still continuing. Jesus’ final hours in the garden, the trial and crucifixion all happened when “Jesus’ time was come”. Why was Jesus born when He was? **Gal. 4:4.**

Why? Answering this question can provide us with much useful understanding. Why did it happen? Why did God include/exclude this information? Why did this person react the way they did? However, even some of these questions should be asked very carefully. If asking “why” leads us beyond what is written or revealed by God, we must be very careful. We may seek extra-Biblical sources such as commentaries, histories, archeological

records or secular material written near the time of the Bible. But we must never place these sources on an equal with God’s inspired word and should use them very sparingly. We also need to keep new Christians and weaker brethren in mind who may not fully understand the difference between inspired and uninspired writings.

We. Why do we have the Bible? God created us. He loves us. He wants the best for us. He wants us to spend eternity in heaven with Him. Yet we have all sinned and alienated ourselves from God, making it impossible to be in heaven. His Bible is the only way for us to know His plan to reconcile us to Him through the blood of His Son, Jesus. Without the Bible, we have no hope. The Bible contains historical and scientific facts. But knowing and even believing all the history and science and geography in the Bible will not save us. We must know and understand the lessons God gives us in the Bible and apply them to ourselves personally. We must have the faith (*belief and conviction that produces actions*) produced by hearing and learning the Word of God. And we must live our lives by the commands of God and the examples of the godly. Only then can we be pleasing to our Father.

The Bible is a wonderful, outstanding and unique book. It contains the revelations of Almighty God that are complete for the man of god to be whole in every way possible. **2 Tim. 3:16-17.** If what we want to know cannot be found between **Gen. 1** and **Rev. 22**, God has also revealed that it isn’t necessary. Understand that there are more lessons, applications and examples in the Bible than any of us will ever fully know or understand. It is not that it is complicated