Elders chooley 318-396-7296 WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIS 2326 JONESBORO ROAD MAIL: P.O. BOX 3057 WEST MONROE, LA 71294 Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; 0:17). 1:16; Acts 18:8; :3; 24:47; (Matt. 10:32, 33). 71294 PLACE STAMP HERE

By the Numbers:

Week of 2/17/19

Contribution - \$2453

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Classes — 36 Sunday Worship* — 61 Wednesday Night — 34

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: To excel to the edifying of the church (1 Cor. 14:12).

Q: What are we to pray and to sing with? (Two things)

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM - The Master & the Scholar

- 1) Will only the false teacher be punished for his false teachings?
- 2) What Scriptures prove both the false teacher & the student will be condemned?

PM - He Must Increase, and I Must Decrease

1) Is it all about me, or Christ?

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

February 24, 2019

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17

Satan's Four Lies About the Bible

Editorial — House to House, Heart to Heart

Note: The following is the third in a series of three excerpts from the House to House, Heart to Heart article. The full article can be found at https://housetohouse.com/satans-4-lies-about-the-bible/.

THE BIBLE IS TOO BORING TO ENJOY

An old man finished a history book. He disliked it so much that he taped a note to it, saying: "In case of famine eat this book, it's full of baloney. In case of flood; stand on this book, it's dry." Some see the Bible like that—a boring list of names, a dry laundry list of church rules, a bunch of thou-shalt-nots.

To the contrary, God stocked His library with something for all tastes. It has biography, narrative, letters, poetry, history, and prophecy. Those who like

- Romance, should read Ruth.
- Adventure, have the story of Jonah.
- Wise sayings, can delve into Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and James.
- Conflict, war, and conquest, should read Joshua, Judges, and 1 Chronicles. ...
- Feel-good-stories are inspired by reading that a murderer became a leader (Exodus 1–3), a prostitute the ancestor of the Savior (Joshua 2; Matthew 1), a dishonest tax collector a generous host (Luke 19), an introvert an instructor (1 Timothy 1), and a callous religious zealot a self-sacrificing gospel preacher (Acts 9, 22, 26).
- Underdogs thrill to read of a barren woman becoming the mother of a famous child (Genesis 21); cowardly fishermen becoming spokesmen for reformation (Matthew 26; Acts 2); and people with pronounced disadvantages becoming God's messengers (Acts 4:12–13). While Bible characters are not whitewashed, they often receive second chances.

THE BIBLE IS TOO CONFUSING TO CARE

Looked at as a whole, the Bible can feel like a massive jigsaw puzzle. (cntd. on pg. 2)

<u>NEWS AND NOTES</u> TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYER

Margie Tippen — Regina Simmons — Wanda Hendrix — Marcia Green — Jerry Tippen — Ruby Weaver — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Harold Myers — Joy Skipper — John & Ruth Coston — Stetson Ortega — Lindy Brown — Kaitlyn Wilson — Kathy Lawrence — Debbie Grice — John Motherspaugh — Virginia Wainwright

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- We are very thankful that Karlie and Cole Brasher were baptized into Christ on Friday, February 15th. Please encourage Karlie and Cole as they begin their Christian walks.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal No fellowship meal today since we had the Valentine's Banquet last weekend.
- Youth & Young Adults Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers (If you would like to help with or host a get-together, please let Chase know)

(Continued from page 1)

Not knowing where to start, some fail to launch and others soon crash.

Since "God is not the author of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33), His word is not hard to understand. It was not written for the intellectually elite or the highly educated. The common people heard Jesus gladly while He was here (Mark 12:37), and common people find no trouble enjoying His words today.

Since the Bible is written on a fourth-grade level, the past generation's farmers, merchants, shopkeepers, railroad workers, and factory employees had no problem deciphering Scripture although they generally had less education than people today.

If one were putting together a puzzle, she would look at the picture on the box and assemble the edge pieces first. Then she would find colors that match and straight lines that connect. Then she could fit the remaining pieces fairly easily. Studying Scripture is like this. It helps to get the overall picture first and then the easy-to-grasp-parts. After that, it is easier to follow the message from book to book, chapter to chapter, and verse to verse. Do not get bogged down with names and places. Those can come later. Just get the meaning.

The overall message is simple. The Bible has one

- Villain—Satan. He comes early (Genesis 3), often (Matthew 4; 1 Peter 5:8), and late (Revelation 20).
- Problem—sin. It starts with Adam and Eve and is on every page.
- Hero—the Savior Jesus Christ. He is featured in the 89 chapters of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (John 20:30–31). The whole Bible is about Him: He is coming (Old Testament); He is here (Matthew–John); He is coming back (Acts–Revelation).
- Purpose—salvation. The Bible is not just for learning or even for living. It is for saving (Acts 2:21, 38, 41; 4:12; 16:30–34).

Beginning readers can start with easily understood verses: "God is love" (1 John 4:8); "Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8); "sin separates" (Isaiah 59:2); "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23); "love the Lord your God with all your heart" (Matthew 22:37); "whoever believes in Him should not perish" (John 3:16); "repent, and let every one of you be baptized for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38); "the gift of God is eternal life" (Roman 6:23); "love one another" (1 John 3:11); "teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19); "be faithful unto death" (Revelation 2:10); and "enter into the joy of your lord" (Matthew 25:21).

Next, begin reading the New Testament. Write down things you learn in each chapter and questions you have. In time, you will find answers to the questions (often in a subsequent reading). Think about what you

learn. Live by it. Follow this by reading the Old Testament.

Do not believe Satan's lies about the Bible. His goal is to keep you away from it—unimpressed, uninformed, unconverted. Someone said, "The safest road to hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

Be of Good Cheer Chase Green

The phrase, "Be of good cheer," occurs seven times in the Bible, all in the New Testament. This phrase is found once regarding a miraculous healing (Mat. 9:2), twice regarding Jesus' walking on the stormy sea (Mat. 14:27; Mark 6:50), once involving overcoming obstacles in the face of persecution (John 16:33), once when Jesus encouraged Paul to continue bearing witness of Him (Acts 23:11), and twice when Paul encouraged others in a boisterous storm at sea (Acts 27:22, 25).

Christians, of all people, ought to be men and women of good cheer. Even when the storms of life around us rage, we must remember that our anchor, hope in Jesus Christ, will keep our ship aright (Heb. 6:19). Undoubtedly, it is this great hope that has gotten countless Christians through many toils, terrors, and tribulations throughout the centuries.

Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have **PEACE**. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33, emphasis mine throughout). We often sing, "Faith is the victory that overcomes the world!" Jesus told Paul, "Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so **MUST** thou bear witness also at Rome" (Acts 23:11). Paul needed to understand that God still had much work for him to do, in spite of what might have seemed a hopeless situation. That verse also says that the Lord "**STOOD BY**" Paul.

If the Lord stood by Paul, don't we think He will stand by us as well, if we are faithful? Of course He will! In fact, He promised as much just before His ascension into heaven in Mat. 28:20: "And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

I find it encouraging that Paul, a man who needed the Lord's encouragement in Acts 23:11, took it upon himself to encourage others as well. In Acts chapter 27, as the storm raged on and the soldiers in the ship wondered whether or not they would live, Paul told them to "be of good cheer." Paul had needed to be of good cheer at one alarming point in his life, and now these men needed to be of good cheer, and Paul passed on the encouragement.

When we as Christians see others struggling in their daily walks, why not pass along an encouraging note, reminding them to be of good cheer? Christ encouraged Paul. Paul encouraged others. And we need to encourage one another as well! "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us **CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER** to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but **EX-HORTING ONE ANOTHER**: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:23-25).

Be of good cheer! — Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness."

1 Cor. 1:23

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