

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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### ***“Why We Should Bring Our Own Bible....”***

by Brian Meade

There was a certain occasion when I was going to a preacher’s study that I had gotten into a hurry to get there and forgot to take my Bible with me. It was a two hour drive to the study and I thought I had everything I needed with me.



But it was after I got to the study I realized that the Bible that I had left in my truck to use for these kind of purposes, was not there. I had cleaned my truck out and took it inside the house.

I looked around to see if I could find a pew Bible, but there wasn’t any close by, there were some on the back wall behind the speaker.

So I had to ask the preacher who was conducting the study if I could use one and walk up there to get it. I remember Jim remarking about “How could a person come to a Bible study without a Bible? It’s like showing up at a gunfight without a gun.”

Immediately in my mind I remembered a sermon by an older preacher, where he talked about everyone bringing their Bible to the Gospel meeting, as he said, “If you’re going to plow a field, you’ve got to bring your plow; if you’re doing carpenter’s work, you’ve got to have a hammer, tape measurer and other appropriate tools for the job; and if your going to a Bible study— you must bring a Bible! Preferably, your own Bible so you can be familiar with it.”

That’s as best I remember the quotes, but you get the point, as well as I.... That whole ordeal got me thinking about why we need to have our own Bible with us in Bible studies and for sermons. I want to get to the lessons for us concerning why:

#### **1. To Fully Participate in The Study of God’s Word.**

When we are called to be at a Bible study or even just listening to a sermon preached from the pulpit, God wants us to do all we can to edify one another (2 Timothy 2:15). We should never take the spectator’s approach to Bible study, where we would simply watch others studying, without engaging our hearts and minds in the study.

But yet, there may be some who look at Bible classes or sermons as something others do, but I just watch and never participate. So that kind of thinking could lead us to never crack open a Bible, or ever be thinking ahead to say any comments in class, or even feel the need to carry a Bible to class!

But what happens if we are called upon to read some Scripture? Would we be embarrassed to have to say we can’t — we don’t have a Bible to read from. And what about the things we would miss, like examining the context of the Bible passages at hand. Would we even know if someone in the study took the passage “out of context” or was teaching rank error! False teachers would love to go to assemblies that have that kind of environment! (see Ephesians 4:14)

And what if we had some knowledge of the Bible discussion at hand, and we could not fully share that with others because we failed to have a Bible with us? We must consider others in this decision to bring our Bible or not....

#### **2. To Become More Familiar With God’s Word Yourself.**

The basics of Bible study is: learning the divisions of the Old and New Testament, where each book is by name, knowing the general theme of each book, why it was written, and to whom.

One of the reasons why many never get familiar with the Scriptures, it takes a great deal of time and effort (Ecclesiastes 12:12). It takes time to look up Bible passages, cross references, and finding examples of Old and New Testament obedience or disobedience that fits our discussion.

But as we do our personal studies, we may make notations and underline key words or passages to help us remember. Those can come in handy in Bible classes (even if we do or don't have a study Bible).

And to have our own familiar Bible that we use all the time will enhance our level of participation in the Scriptures. I remember when my Dad was looking to get a new Bible, he would always try to get the same "make and model" as his old Bible. He did that to get an updated version of the same kind of Bible that he was already used to.

I also remember when it was no longer possible to get the same kind, as Bible manufacturers often will discontinue certain editions, he had to get a new kind with large print. But he would complain that the text was not where he was used to it being in his old Bible. When Matthew's gospel might begin at the top of the left side of his old Bible, now it was somewhere else. Yes, you can get so used to a Bible that you miss subtle things like that when using another Bible.

And that's why a pew Bible may be handy in a pinch or emergency, but that's not what serious Bible students should use regularly. Consequently, in a pew Bible, you won't have any personal notations or familiar markings of any kind. Some may feel that they can't write in their Bible, but the Bible is tool and as long as we are not editing the text itself, we can add reference verses in the margin or underline key words or key themes of the passage at hand. I have done this to several Bibles in the past, and still, I have the upmost respect for God's word and the text itself.

All of this is to get us more used to the text of Scripture, and thus closer to the meaning of Scripture. Because this is the main goal— understanding what God is trying to say to us and living His way! (Ephesians 5:17; Matthew 4:4)

### **3. To Better Retain The Lessons You Study.**

There have been studies done about how much we remember by the ways or methods of our study. One of the most popular studies says that you remember 10% of what you READ, 20% of what you HEAR, 30% of what you SEE, 50% of what you SEE and HEAR, 70% of what you SAY and WRITE, and 90% of what you DO.

Now there are those who want to debunk the figures and percentages of this formula and say it is too simplistic a way to define how people learn. Learning is a very complex set of actions, and what works for some may not be the same for others. And I am not trying to argue the accuracy of it either.

But, I do think (just my thoughts about it) that visual aids do a lot to help keep our focus and even interest in our studies. What really matters is the interest and the desire of the student (disciple) to want to know. Our level of desire to know God's will (and His Word) may very determine whether or not we retain much or little in our studies. So what is the point, that if we don't care enough to bring a Bible to the Bible study— then what does that say about our interest level of Bible study in general?

My experience has taught me to be more careful and never to be that unready or ill-prepared for the important activity of studying the Scriptures (Acts 17:11; 1 Timothy 4:13-16; 2 Timothy 2:15).

Let us have a godly perspective and love God's word and His truth!

## ***“One Thing....”***

### **Introduction: One thing, very simple. Don't we long for simplicity?**

#### **Genesis 30:31 (vs. 25-32)**

“So he said, “What shall I give you?” And Jacob said, “You shall not give me anything. If you will do this *one* thing for me, I will again pasture *and* keep your flock:”

#### **2 Samuel 3:13 (vs. 12-15)**

“He said, “Good! I will make a covenant with you, but I demand one thing of you, namely, you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see me.”

#### **I. Psalm 27:4 (vs. 5-9)**

“One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek:

That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,  
To behold the beauty of the Lord  
And to meditate in His temple.”

## II. Matthew 21:24 (vs. 23-27)

“Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.”

## III. Mark 10:21 (vs. 17-22)

“Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, “One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

## IV. Luke 10:42 (vs. 38-42)

“but *only* one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

## V. John 9:25 (vs. 13-34)

“He then answered, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

## VI. Acts 19:32 (vs. 21-32)

“So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together.”

## VII. Philippians 3:13 (vs. 10-15)

“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead,”

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby’s Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry’s niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor,, Danny Cottrell, Gary Doles, Joe Felks, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, and Fred’s grandson Mason, and Sherry Doles (update) The doctors want to wait several weeks until her ribs heal up enough to begin preventive treatments for her.

### **Those Who Serve:**

<b>Announcements:</b>	Fred Johnson
<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Scripture Reading:</b>	Lee Busby <i>Luke 10:38-42</i>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	J D Griffin
<b>Lord’s Supper:</b>	Jerry Kennemur
<b>Preaching:</b>	Brian Meade
<b>Sermon:</b>	“ <i>One Thing...</i> ”
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Tim Harris Sr.