

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“You Can Understand The Bible For Yourself”

By Phillip Mullins

One of the greatest misconceptions about the Bible is that it is a locked book. The average person is believed to be shut out from comprehending its message. It is thought to be too mysterious, too difficult for the common man or woman to understand.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The apostle Paul was one of the individuals who was chosen to write down the message of Christ for the New Testament. The word of Christ was revealed to Paul by the Holy Spirit. The gospel had been hidden for years like a mystery, but it was now being unveiled for all to see and know.



Speaking of the gospel, Paul wrote, “...*how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I wrote before in a few words, by which when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ...*” (Eph. 3:3-4). The Bible was not written to stump man or frustrate him in any way. Certainly there are sections of it that are challenging and even parts that leave most of us at a loss as to what it is about. Yet, the vast majority of what is found in the Bible is understandable for anyone.

The apostle Peter would even say that of some of Paul’s writings in 2 Peter 3:15-16, “*and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.*”

Notice however, that Peter did not say they were impossible to understand. Difficult passages of scripture, like the book of Romans, will often require us to study harder to understand the harder sections of scripture. But as long as we do not give up trying to find out the meaning of such, we can come to know its teaching to us. I truly believe God wants us to know!

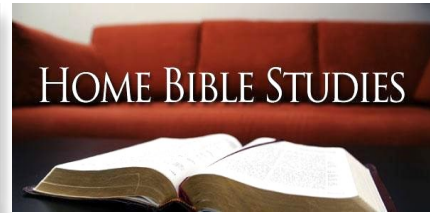
God’s Supreme intelligence makes the Bible understandable. He knows how we reason and communicate and He has constructed it in such a way that we can comprehend it. It is filled with narrative, illustrations, and colorful language that makes it easier for us to relate to what is being said. Though He is so far above us (Isa. 55:8-9), God has always been able to connect with man— if man was willing to listen.

You don’t have to have some special teacher to unlock the secrets of the Bible for you. You may benefit from another’s assistance, but you can read and understand the Bible yourself. You do, however, have to make an effort and invest some time into studying it daily (Acts 17:11) and in time it will get easier.

Like learning anything new, you will struggle at first. Yet, if you are committed and stick to it, you will soon begin to see it come together. You will discover that the Bible is fascinating and enlightening. You will find that it is understandable and that it is the word of eternal life (John 6:63).

A Women's Bible Class

Will meet monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:00 PM.
Ask Chris or Kathrine Callahan for details.



“Where Self-Discipline Comes From”

by Gary Henry

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

EVERY DAY WE LIVE IN THIS WORLD, WE ARE TESTED. We are faced with choices that test our character. Deep down inside, what kind of people are we? When the RIGHT THING and the EASY THING are not the same, we must choose between them. Do we have the character to do what we know best, *and do that reliably and consistently. Are we made of strong stuff or not?*

Most of us could use a little a little self-discipline and a little more will-power. We need the benefit of having trained our bodies to carry out the dictates of our conscience. Paul said, *“I discipline my body and bring it into subjection.”* (1 Corinthians 9:27) But how do we do this? Where does self-discipline come from?

SELF-DISCIPLINE COMES FROM HAVING HOPE THAT MEANS ENOUGH TO US THAT WE REFUSE TO GIVE UP. We find the strength to say “No” only when we have a powerful “Yes” burning within us. Like Jesus, who *“for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross”*, we must endure our own crosses. The *“joy set before us “* is the key.

Actually, self-discipline is a form of COURAGE— and courage is always born of HOPE. When we can see the light that comes from the lighthouse, fear of the dark is lessened and we find the strength to make for the harbor. So John wrote, *“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope purifies himself, just as He is pure.”* (1 John 3:2-3)

If we are to grow strong in our character, therefore, and if we are to acquire godly integrity in our conduct— we must focus more on God. His glory means enough to us that the desire for Him to be glorified is a powerful force constantly calling us to higher ground. If God is to be glorified, there are some things that we must give up, it's true. But the question is really one of GAINING things— GREATER THINGS THAT WE SHOULD REFUSE TO GIVE UP!

Our Lord did not ask us to give up things of the earth, but to exchange them for BETTER THINGS.

(via REACHING FORWARD)

Some Thoughts To Remember:

Practice makes perfect, so be careful *what* you practice.

You will never stumble onto anything good while sitting.

Love will find a way, indifference will find an excuse.

If little things annoy you, remember they are *little* things.

Sometimes, not being yourself is quite an improvement.

A song in the heart gives the day a good start.

To the world, you might be one person, but to one person
you might be the world.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Steve Switcher, Nicky Curtis, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Delain Doles, Peggy Harville (cancer), and Jerry Trimble (possible blot clot in leg).

Our Meeting with Trey Haskett concluded last Friday night. We had visitors from Northeast in Tupelo, North Jackson St. in Houston, South Side in Houston, Rienzi, Oakleigh, and Phil Campbell, Al. congregations. Even two lost travelers (Andrew & Sarah Richardson) found their way to our building from Starkville, Tuesday night.

Other local Meetings are posted in the foyer bulletin board.

On Wednesday Oct. 24th, we welcomed Audrey Rose Callahan, the newborn daughter of Chris and Katherine Callahan. (Audrey weighed 8 lbs. and 9 ounces— 21 inches long). Congratulations to them and Maggie, who now has a new sister!

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:

Nathan Meade

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon:

"Sermon Series For New Converts: Obedience"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Fred Johnson

The Book of John (Mike Willis)
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Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:

Fred Johnson

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:

Sam Johnson

Psalm III:1-4

Song Leader:

Adam Harris

Lord's Table:

Jerry Kennemur

Assisting:

Chris Callahan & Nathan Meade

Singing Service:

Men of the Congregation Lead singing

Invitation:

Fred Johnson

Closing Prayer:

Russell Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

October 31st:

Auditorium Bible Class:

Russell Briggs

1 & 2 Kings (Mike Willis)
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Invitation:

Paul Johnson

Song Leader:

Adam Harris

Closing Prayer:

Brian Meade