

Those to Serve

(B) Calvin Burks
(FV) Keith Stifflemire
(O) Doug Pruett
(A) Jorge Garza
1st prayer Jack Wall
2nd prayer Mike Mallett
Announcements: Judd Wall
Singing: Kevin Grant

September 1st

Mission Sunday

September 2nd

Labor Day

September 8th

Noon Fellowship

Grandparents Day

October 6th

Mission Sunday

Happy Birthday

Cindi Wall August 26th
Kathy Stifflemire Sept. 24th
Vernon Houts Sept. 24th
Autumn Vann Sept. 29th

Prayer List:

Tammy Parker
Mike Lovell
Letha Sheldon
Ruby Jones
Loyd Crownover
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement

Quotes & Saying

- ◇ *Character is determined by what you stand for. Reputation is made by what you fall for.*
- ◇ *It is confusing to give good advice while setting a bad example.*

September 8th

Friends & Family

Day.

Please make plans to attend and stay for the noon Fellowship.

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

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August 25, 2019



Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

9:30 am Bible Study

10:20 am Worship

12:30 pm Afternoon

Wednesday Night

6:00 pm

Will Vann, Preacher

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When It Was a Crime to Read the Bible

By the start of the third decade of the 16th century, William Tyndale had already been on the run for five years. The king of England, Henry VIII, had declared him a felon. Fleeing Roman Catholic authorities in London (never to return to England), he went first to Cologne, France, and then Worms, Germany. What crime had this "evil" man committed? Of what rebellious act of treason was he guilty? He dared to translate and then print the New Testament in the English language!

In England in the 1520's (indeed, throughout Europe during the middle ages), unless you were literate in Hebrew, Greek or Latin, reading the Bible for yourself was impossible. You had to rely upon what the Roman Catholic clergy said the Bible contained. You would not have been able to study the Bible for yourself to discern the truth for yourself - much less be free to practice what you learned therein. Rome ruled with an iron hand.

The Catholic Church did not want nor permit a wide transmission of the Bible and its contents. When Tyndale's NT was published in Worms, 6,000 copies were shipped back to England. Medieval historian William Manchester reports, "To the bishop of London this was an intolerable, metastasizing heresy. He bought up all that were for sale and publicly burned them at St. Paul's Cross. But the archbishop of Canterbury was dissatisfied; his spies told him that many remained in private hands. Protestant peers with country houses were loaning them out, like public libraries. Assembling his bishops, the archbishop declared that tracking them down was essential - each was placing souls in jeopardy - and so, on his instructions, dioceses organized posses, searching the homes of known literates, and offered rewards to informers - sending out the alarm to keep Christ's revealed word from those who worshiped him." (A World Lit Only By Fire, 204-205)

Tyndale was eventually arrested and imprisoned for sixteen months in the castle of Vilvorde, near Brussels. In 1536, after being tried and convicted for heresy he was publicly executed, being tied to a stake, strangled to death, and then his corpse burned.

As we consider Tyndale's struggle and sacrifice to provide the common Englishman with readable, discernable scriptures, we are made to thank God for the daily ease and convenience with which we can open the Bible and study it for ourselves. We are made to cherish the privilege that is ours to pour over the divine text, understand it, reflection upon it, think over it so as to bring our hearts and lives into harmony with it, as well as also teach it to others (Eph. 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Tim. 2:2).

If you have been neglecting to read, learn and live God's word, please remember the good fortune you have: education and access - the abundant opportunity to read and know God's word. To not drink deeply from its well is to squander a precious blessing (cf. Jas. 4:17).

The next time you pick up your Bible and read it, remember the sacrifices of countless others who have made that simple act possible. But above all, remember the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave His life on the cross and was then resurrected from the dead so that you know the truth, abide in His word and thus be freed from your sin (Jno. 8:31-36; 1:1-3, 14-18). - by Joe R. Price

Practical "Tools" for Bible Study

A) Pray for wisdom and understanding. Before you ever open your Bible, pray. "For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Col. 1:9). Do not neglect this. It is absolutely necessary for understanding.

B) Read it. That is right. Read it. Now read it again. What do the individual words mean? If you do not know, look them up in a dictionary. What do they mean together? How do the sentences tie together? Are there parallel thoughts in the context or elsewhere? Note carefully, what I call signal words, like "therefore, for, and, by, that, in, be, from, to," etc., to help you understand. Read it!!

C) Keep the text in its context. That may be the verse before or after or both, or a paragraph of verses, or a chapter, or a book. And, study the same topic in other parts of the Bible.

D) Start with what is easy to understand. Start with something you already think you understand. Search to see if your understanding is correct. For example, find, learn, remember where those texts are that teach a person how to become a Christian. Leave harder, more complex topics for future study.

E) Make notes - in your Bible and/or a notebook. No one can remember everything. Use your Bible's margin for recording other texts or ideas you have found that are helpful to understand the text you are studying. The next time you read that text those notes will be there

F) Always observe who is talking in the text you are reading. Sometimes the Devil is quoted, or sinners speak, or uninspired people. Note their words, but obey only God's words or the words of His inspired people.

G) Always remember in which Bible time you are studying. Is it during patriarchal times, before Moses? Is it during Israel's time, before Christ? Remember we are Christians, followers of Christ, and what He authorizes, in His words or through His inspired writers, is what is acceptable for us to believe and do.

H) Apply It. All you have done to this point is useless unless you are willing to apply it to your life. Does what you read change and remove from your life unacceptable attitudes and conduct? Does what you read lead to improving and strengthening good attitudes, to increasing your doing of right things? This is the final, all important test of the quantity and quality of your faith and whether you are really studying the Bible. Knowledge of facts alone will not save.

by Ronny E. Hinds