

Those to Serve

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

October 27th

Noon Fellowship

November 3rd

Mission Sunday

&

Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 11th

Veterans Day

November 24th

Noon Fellowship

Happy Birthday

Ruby Jones Oct 24th

Valerie Garza Nov 1st

Tammy Burks Nov 3rd

Jorge Garza Nov 12th

Theresa Pruett Nov 14th

Prayer List:

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

Can We See The Bible Alike?

Moses said we could (Deut. 29:29).
David said we could (Ps. 119:104).
John said we could (Jn. 20:30,31).
Jesus prayed that we might (Jn. 17:20).
All of these spokesmen for God have declared that through study of the Scriptures we are enabled to see them alike.

There are some things that **HINDER** a clear understanding of the Bible:

- ☐ **Relatives** (Matt. 19:29; 10:34-37)
- ☐ **Pride** (Prov. 14:12; 16:18; Rev. 3:17-18)
- ☐ **Majority opinion** (Ex. 23:2; Matt. 7:13-14,21)
- ☐ **False doctrines** (Matt. 13:14-15; 2 Thess. 2:9-12)
- ☐ **Satan** (2 Cor. 4:3-4)

If we will accept only the word of God (1 Pet. 4:11), we would not only see the Bible alike, but understand and practice it alike (1 Cor. 1:10).

- by **Johnny Polk**

Edifier

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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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No Rules!

The concept of 'no rules' seems initially appealing to many people. Just think – you can do whatever you want, whenever you want, wherever you want. Wonderful! But, wait, if I can do whatever, whenever, wherever, then so can everyone else. That means that their actions may impact upon me. They might decide to take my car, burn my house, or steal my children. If there are 'no rules,' then they can do anything, and there is no basis to stop them.

Rules, we come to realize, are extremely necessary. My rights, my property, in fact my very existence depend upon rules. Without them, 'civilization' would come to an end. Religion is no different. Rules are clearly necessary. If allowed to do whatever we want, there is no end to the chaos that results. The confused and divided religious world of our day is a testimony against the misguided notion that man should do as he pleases when it comes to serving God.

How can we know what is right? How can we be assured that God is pleased? On what basis can we judge that certain religious deeds are proper and others are wrong? Surely these matters cannot be left to the subjective feelings of men. The 'I'm OK, you're OK' approach is a proven failure. There must be something objective and certain that will direct us as we seek God. The objective standard we seek is the inspired Word of God. It is a "light to our path, and a lamp to our feet" (Ps. 119:105). God's word is the truth (Jn. 17:17) that can make us free (Jn. 8:32).

With the divinely delivered 'rule book' in hand, we must respect it and comply with its regulations. This would include 'speaking where the Bible speaks, and being silent where the Bible is silent' (1 Pet. 4:11), and demanding 'book, chapter, and verse' for everything we do (Col. 3:17). Anything less will lead to the anarchy of 'no rules.'

- by Greg Gwin

To Drink, or Not To Drink?

By Seth Myers

One of the rules of correct Bible interpretation ("lesser" though it may be) is this:

On any given topic, interpret the more difficult and obscure passage(s) in light of the more clear and obvious one(s).

In other words, view a difficult passage through the lens of a clearer passage on the same subject. An easy example is Luke 14:26, where Jesus seems to say that you have to hate your family in order to be a Christian. However, if we view this difficult passage in light of a parallel passage in Matthew (10:37), we find that the idea of "not hat[ing]" one's family is modified (or clarified) by, "lov[ing one's family] more than Me." Thus, to "hate" family = to love Jesus more than family. What a difference! Another is Matt. 10:34, where Jesus said "I have not come to bring peace [on the earth], but a sword." Although Matthew clarifies Luke's record above, here Luke, incidentally, clarifies Matthew's: for he records Jesus saying that He did not come to bring peace, "but rather division" (12:51). Thus, Jesus used the word "sword" as a euphemistic metaphor, if you will, for general strife and division, which would be manifested in a variety of ways (most of which would not be with a literal sword). And, by the way, the gospel most certainly caused much division—particularly in first-century Jewish homes/families (e.g., Saul of Tarsus).

But here is a much more urgent, and practical, instance: the often-queried subject of the recreational use of intoxicants, such as alcohol. There are several factors to consider on this subject, some of which are difficult—and more so because they are untaught (e.g., how our word "wine" differs from the original words translated "wine"—which can refer to fermented or unfermented alike). As difficult as some passages might be, though, Proverbs 23:31,32 is as plain as day:

"Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly.

In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder" (cp. 20:1). Being inspired of God, these words describe, in unmissable language, how God views beverage alcohol. As such, the responsible student of God's word will interpret all other, not-so-clear "wine" passages, in light of this crystal clear one. When one does so, situations like John 2:1ff (where Jesus turned water to "wine") become much less intimidating—for can we really imagine God the Son creating, for man's recreational consumption, 80+ gallons of that which God the Spirit said man should not even look at? What does such a claim say about Jesus? It says many things, indeed—and none good.