

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 25, 2012



How to understand the Bible

by David Long

God desires all to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). Truth saves (John 8:32). The Bible is truth (John 17:17). With these things being true it is vitally important that every person study the Bible properly in order to understand it (2 Tim. 2:15). How do we do that? By asking some basic questions.

(1) Who is speaking? Everything in the Bible was written by men who were inspired of God (2 Tim. 3:16-16). However, those inspired men sometimes recorded the words of evil men and even the words of Satan. Those words are accurately recorded but are not words we should follow. For example, God said of Job's three friends, "And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath" (Job 42:7). Their words are recorded in the Bible but can you trust every the said to be true? No. Would we follow what they said? No.

(2) To whom is it spoken? God told Adam not to eat of a certain tree (Gen. 2:16-17). Is there a tree today we can't eat of? No. Why? Because God told Adam that. God told Noah to built an ark of...

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

5:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for all ages & Pew Packers on 1st & 3rd Sundays at 4:15 p.m.

P.O. Box 321

2008 Hwy. 306

(1.2 miles east of I-55)

Coldwater, MS 38618

(662) 622-7951

emailus@coldwatercofc.com

www.coldwatercofc.com

ELDERS

Billy Bland

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Jim Jackson

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

...gopher wood (Gen. 6:14-16). Is that something you and I should do today in order to be saved? No. To understand the Bible we need to ask, “To whom is it spoken?” and that will help us to know if the words apply to us or not.

(3) What time frame is it being spoken? The Bible can be divided into three time periods. The Patriarchal age. During this time God spoke to the head of the family (Adam, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob). The Mosaic age. During this time God gave Israel the Old Testament law to live by (Dt. 5:1-3). Under that law priests from the tribe of Levi offered animal sacrifices on behalf of the people (Lev. 1-5). They were to keep certain feast days (Lev. 23). They were to keep the Passover (Ex. 12). The Christian age. This is the age we live in. When Jesus died on the cross he took away the Old Testament and ushered in His New Testament (Heb. 9:15-17; 10:9-10; Gal. 3:24-25).

(4) What type of language is being used? Is it literal or figurative? Literal language must be understood to its actual meaning. For example: the word “sheep” would mean and refer to a four-legged animal from which wool is taken (Gen. 4:2). In figurative language, words are used to represent ideas or thoughts which are different from the actual meaning of the word. For example: the word “sheep” or “lamb” would refer to something which has some of the same qualities of a sheep or lamb (John 1:29).

(5) What are the conditions, circumstances and/or context? If you read 1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 38 you might conclude that Paul was against marriage. So why would he say such things? Because of what he mentioned in verse 26 of that same chapter. Based on what is said in Revelation 1:1 and 22:6, how should we understand the contents of the book of Revelation--as happened or will happen? We should understand that they have already happened.

So what does all this mean to us? It means that if we will apply some basic principles then we can understand the Bible. The Bible is not a mysterious book beyond our understanding.

David Long preaches for the Higginsville, MO Church of Christ

This Week's Daily Bible Reading:

Sunday:	Judges 19-21
Monday:	Ruth
Tuesday:	1 Samuel 1-3
Wednesday:	1 Samuel 4-8
Thursday:	1 Samuel 9-12
Friday:	1 Samuel 13-14
Saturday:	1 Samuel 15-17

Mark Your Calendars!

Men & Children Campout	April 27 - 28
Coldwater VBS	June 10 - 14
Sardis Lake Christian Camp	June 17 - 23

Our God, He is Alive

by A.W. Dicus

*There is, beyond the azure blue, a God concealed from human sight,
He tinted skies heav'nly hue and framed the worlds with His great might.*

*There was, a long, long time ago, a God whose voice the prophets heard,
He is the God that we should know, who speaks from His inspired Word.*

*Secure, is life from mortal mind, God holds the germ within His hand,
Tho' men may search, they cannot find, for God alone does understand.*

*Our God, whose Son upon a tree, a life was willing there to give,
That He from sin might set man free, and evermore with Him could live.*

*There is a God, He is alive, in Him we live, and we survive;
From dust our God created man, He is our God, the great I AM.*

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

We rejoice that the many that have been traveling have returned safely.

Nora Boling -- congestive heart failure.

Herbert & Helen Bowman

Sue Cobern is still suffering stomach complications.

Shirley Yarbro

Wiley Tuggle & Betty Tuggle.

**Far East Missions
OpenDoor Ministry
Fishers of Men**

Family & Friends

Mike Ratliff, Andy's father, had a stint put in this past week. **James Angel**, has cancer and not doing well. **Linda Peneiston**, co-worker of Johnny Bayless. **Sherry Brown**. **Terry DeBerry**, wife of MSOP student, not doing well after removal of her bad kidneys. Awaiting receipt of new kidneys. **Nicole Blagburn**, co-worker of Molly, has been diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 30. **Chuck Tharp**, prostate cancer. **Eli Williams**, and his cancer treatment; **Missy Kelsay**, battling cancer. **Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler, has cancer. **Renee Loya**, (cousin of Elizabeth Baker), has MS. **Ray Maples** undergoing chemo-therapy for leukemia. **Janie Brister** has multiple health problems. **Aubree Harris; Lajuan Collums; Harvey Tuggle; Virginia Mayfield; Peyton Harville; Charles Easley; Gloria Angel; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg.**

March Birthdays

3/9 -- Ginger Bayless
3/14 -- Brianna Davis
3/18 -- Betty Duke
3/21 -- Ella Brown
3/24 -- Johnny Bayless
3/30 -- Joe Davis
3/30 -- Beau Davis
3/31 -- Beverly Hayes

March Anniversary

3/29 -- Herbert & Helen Bowman

**Special meeting tonight following PM service
for VBS and then for Youth!**

Get Involved!

Daily Bible Reading Calendar 2012

Let's continue to read and study together!!

Come & Go Housewarming for Tim & Rachel

TODAY -- 2:00 - 3:30 PM

MSOP Lectures -- March 25 - 29

Theme: "In God We Trust"

See flyer on bulletin board!

Youth Egg Hunt -- March 31 -- 11:30 AM

Sunday Night for the Savior -- April 1

Providence Place Devo -- April 8 -- 2PM

Bible Bowl -- April 28 -- 5PM

Looxahoma building -- **ALL** invited! Potluck meal!

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, March 25

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Johnny Bayless
Announcements	Jason Bayless
Song Leader	Caleb Baker
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jared Brown
	Jeffrey Ferrell
Assist	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
	Jeremy Moore
Opening Prayer	Andy Ratliff
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell

Evening

Song Leader	Caleb Baker
Opening Prayer	Jerry Davis
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jared Brown
	Jeffrey Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Ron Johnson

Wednesday, March 28

Song Leader	Caleb Baker
Prayer	Wiley Tuggle
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jared Brown