

FROM THE PREACHERS DESK

Have You Not Read?

A trend that I find bizarre in churches is when its members get upset at the teaching of God's Word.

I'm not talking about the *false* teaching of the Word. I'm not talking about when people get upset because of a harsh *delivery* of the Word either. I can understand people being upset, rightly, about those things.

What I'm referring to is the thoughtful, skillful, kind and precise teaching of the Word that *still* upsets the believer.

Another part of the phenomenon is where that upset feeling then get released. Many times, it's to the one who taught it, the teacher or preacher. Other times, it's to the elders of the church. Other times it's to friends or family members or anyone else that will listen.

There was a time, and not that long ago, considering all things, that people didn't have access to the Bible. English speaking people first began to have access the Bible, in English, in the late 1300's when John Wycliffe organized groups of scribes to transliterate the text, by hand, into English.

Today, even the laziest man in an English-speaking country can easily get his hands on an English Bible, in a physical or electronic format.

In Jesus' time, not many people had access to, what we call, the Old Testament, but some people that did have access, were the Pharisees.

Jesus gave lots of grace to the common people who didn't have access to the Bible and didn't have a ready means to study it for themselves. He had less grace for those who claimed to be Bible experts and taught the common man a false teaching. The chief false teachers of Jesus' day were the Pharisees.

Because the Pharisees hated Jesus, they were always trying to trap himself with his own words. And often when they would ask him a Biblical question, one of his favorite responses was, "Have you not read?"

The question oozed with divine sarcasm. Of course, they had read. But they weren't asking questions looking for real answers. They were asking questions with sinister designs in mind.

Why say all of that? I say all of that so that I can say to the person who gets upset at the thoughtful, skillful, kind and precise teaching of
(continued)

God's Word, "Have you not read?" Which is another way of saying, "Is this the first time that you've ever heard this teaching?" "Do you not own a Bible, and if so, do you simply never read it?"

We can't expect everyone to understand all of the Bible, that's why God calls some to be teachers. But, at a minimum, we should all be readers of God's Word. There are many reasons why. I won't cover them all, but here's some things to think about.

If we read God's Word for ourselves, it affects our hearts differently than when we hear it preached. Why? Because most of us have too hard of a time separating the man from the message. What I mean is this – When you hear me preach, for instance, you're hearing a perfect message from an imperfect vessel, versus, when you read the Bible yourself, you have a perfect message coming from a perfect vessel. Learning from preachers isn't wrong, but it is different.

Also, if we read God's Word for ourselves, it's harder to get away from its clear teachings. Don't get me wrong – If people want to believe something other than what they read in the Bible, they'll find a way. It will be wrong, but they'll find a way to make it seem right so they can feel good again.

But when a teacher of preacher is involved, it often becomes much easier to villainize the person and simply not deal, personally, with the difficult text.

We have to understand this church – The Word of God is perfect. It is not the problem. If it isn't, then what is? We are. We have deeply ingrained sinful natures and we have rebellious hearts that resist God and His truth.

With God's help though, through Jesus, even these things that are stacked against us can be overcome.

If you find yourself getting upset when the Word is being taught, ask yourself, "Am I upset because this is something I've never heard before?" Or, "Am I upset because something in my nature is rebelling against God's Word?"

Have you not read?

Much Love,
Wes LeFlore (918) 607-8489 or huskerwes1@gmail.com

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil...
There is no point.

PRAYER LIST

Connie Morris—having some health issues. Please keep her in your prayers.

Others on prayer list: Bob Brownlee, Leon Shoemaker, Russell Day, Kendall Brundage, Shirley Stoner, Melinda Miller, Hailee Moyer

WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD CONFERENCE

The Women Walking with God Conference will be held April 16-17 at the Hartman Arena in Park City. You can register at www.womenwalkingwithgod.org. You can attend this years conference onsite at Hartman Arena or virtual. The theme this year is "Arise."

CARPENTER PLACE GROCERY PICK-UP

Carpenter Place will be here this Thursday to pick up groceries. If you haven't picked up a sack, there are still plenty at the foyer doors and at the west door. They need to be here Wednesday. If you are unable to get them here, let someone know and they can help out by picking it up or meeting you at the building.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Arley Bennett—16th

Arallai Wartick—27th

Karissa Richmond—30th

Jami Dodds—20th

Larry Helton—27th

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Teylin Wartick—4th

Lynette Turney—8th

Mack Colwell—9th

Brian Turney—16th

Addison Jenkins—19th

Jason Newberry—19th

Tanner Dillon—25th

Helen Norris—30th

Ricky Bocanegra—5th

Loretta DeJarnett—9th

Alan Shields—15th

Journei Bales—18th

Jane Cole—19th

Madi Bradbury—23rd

Bryan Turner—27th

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

March

Mar 14—Kaylee Jenkins

Mar 28—Lynette Turney

Mar 21—Helen Norris

April

Apr 04—Sara Bradbury

Apr 18—Linda Wartick

Apr 11—Lynette Turney

Apr 25—Kaylee Jenkins

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

GOD IS:

Above you to bless you, below you to support you,
before you to guide you, behind you to protect you,
and beside you to comfort you.

The Advanced Lessons, Part 8: Divorce, Marriage & Singleness
Matthew 19:1-12

Beyond the Jordan = _____

I. The _____

2 Reasons For this Questions

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-

II. The _____

Are you _____ with _____?

If you _____ the _____ it's in the _____!

4 Reasons Their Teaching Was Wrong

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3 Ways To Be A Successful Christian Single

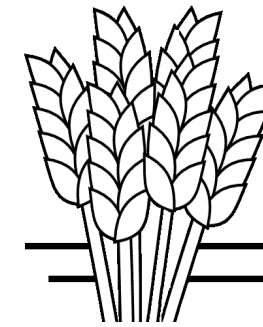
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THOSE WHO SERVE			
SUNDAY A.M.	14-Mar 2021	21-Mar 2021	28-Mar 2021
Elder in Charge	E. Newberry	E. Newberry	E. Newberry
Opening Prayer	R. Harris	K. Dodds	L. Lewis
Song Leader	D. Pierce	D. Pierce	D. Pierce
Communion Prayer	T. Norris	R. Harris	M. Kline
Contribution Prayer & Collection	L. Turney K. Dodds	L. Turney K. Dodds	L. Turney K. Dodds
Ushers	A. Hines P. Dodds	A. Hines P. Dodds	A. Hines P. Dodds
Closing Prayer	E. Newberry	E. Newberry	E. Newberry
Deacon in Charge	L. Lewis	L. Lewis	L. Lewis
SUNDAY A.M.	04-Apr 2021	11-Apr 2021	18-Apr 2021
Elder in Charge	T. Norris	T. Norris	T. Norris
Opening Prayer	D. Pierce	M. Neal	L. Lewis
Song Leader	W. Pierce	W. Pierce	W. Pierce
Communion Prayer	E. Newberry	T. Norris	R. Harris
Contribution Prayer & Collection	N. Bradbury J. DeJarnett	N. Bradbury J. DeJarnett	N. Bradbury J. DeJarnett
Ushers	J. Rayl J. Willson	J. Rayl J. Willson	J. Rayl J. Willson
Closing Prayer	T. Norris	T. Norris	T. Norris
Deacon in Charge	M. Neal	M. Neal	M. Neal

Note concerning COVID-19: We are now requiring adults to wear masks in services, unless performing a public speaking role in the service or partaking of communion. If you have a medical limitation, we are not asking you to wear a mask and disregard that limitation. We also ask anyone who is subject to quarantine to abide by those recommendations. If you have a cough or are feeling ill, please do not attend services in person. By taking these measures, we believe we can respond to Paul's instructions in Philippians 2, where he wrote—*“do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”*



*“Reaching Inward, Outward
Upward, Downward”*

Wellington Church of Christ

217 W. 13th St. Wellington, KS 67152 620-326-7511

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 14, 2021

Call to Worship

Prayer

Song #549 “There Is Sunshine in My Soul”

Song #141 “Heavenly Father, We Appreciate You”

Song #366 “By Christ Redeemed”

Communion Prayers

Contribution Prayer

Contribution Collection

Lesson

Song #478 “Nearer, Still Nearer”

Closing Prayer

ELDERS		DEACONS	
Rex Harris	Marvin Kline	Kevin Dodds	Aaron Hines
Ed Newberry	Tom Norris	Leroy Lewis	Mike Neal
		David Pierce	Alan Shields
MINISTER			
Wes LeFlore			