

Second Street Church of Christ



November 6, 2016

What's the Bible for?

MINISTER

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SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Bible Class....9:00am
Sun. Morn. Worship.10:00am
Sunday Evening.....5:00pm
Wed. Evening.....7:00pm

*Endeavoring to keep
the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:3*

Writers of the various books and letters contained in holy Scripture sometimes spell out why they wrote. They include purpose statements or declarations of what they hoped to accomplish, what effect they hoped to have on their readers.

John was clear about the reason for taking up his quill—faith and life.

“Now Jesus performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” John 20.30-31.

In his gospel preface, Luke told Theophilus that he wrote “so that you may know for certain the things you were taught” Luke 1.4. He aimed for certainty, which is certainly a great need today as well.

In his first letter to the Christians in Corinth, Paul stated, “I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children” 1 Corinthians 4.14. Not a few beliefs and practices needed to be corrected in that city, so Paul is quick to write and help them. Admonishment is warning and instruction, and Paul does it with profound love and tears of intense desire.

The writer of Hebrews described what he was doing at the end of his discourse. “I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly” Hebrews 13.22. Lawrence Richards describes exhortation well:

“Encouragement strengthens and calls forth renewed commitment. Typically believers are encouraged to some godly course of action ... The purpose of encouragement is that we may be strengthened for fresh faith and obedience” (Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, 246-247).

In his first letter, Peter states something similar: “I have written to you briefly, in order to encourage you and testify that this is the true grace of God” 1 Peter 5.22.

(Continued on page 2)

Announcements

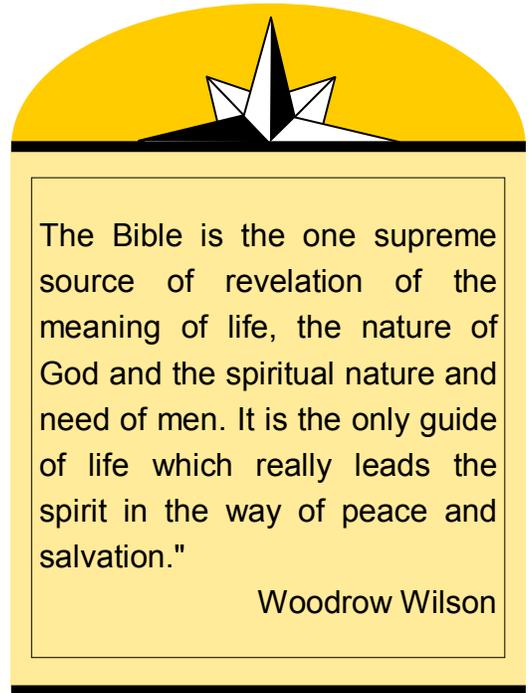
Welcome Visitors!! You are our honored guest, and we are glad you came our way! We invite you back to our evening services at 5:00 and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm.

The sign-up sheet to host a singing and fellowship night is posted on the board in the foyer.

Food Pantry item - canned beans

Bear Stuffing Tuesday night.

Thanksgiving Dinner - first thing Michelle needs is a list of names for those you know that we can take a plate to. Also if you can help in any way see Michelle.



(Continued from page 1)

Apparently, there were some false ideas about grace back then, just as there are now. Peter wanted his readers to embrace suffering as part and parcel of their life in Christ.

In the Old Testament, there are fewer such statements. But Jeremiah sums up well the purpose of the prophets and, by extension, their writings, as God speaks through him:

"I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, sending them persistently, saying, 'Turn now every one of you from his evil way, and amend your deeds, and do not go after other gods to serve them, and then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to you and your fathers.' But you did not incline your ear or listen to me" Jeremiah 35.15.

All of these purpose statements are threads of the same cord that runs throughout Scripture. Each one turns upon the person and work of God. The Bible exists to show us God and his work on our behalf. That work ultimately culminates in the person of Jesus Christ.

So perhaps the best answer from Scripture itself as to what the Bible is for comes from the Lord Jesus himself.

"You study the scriptures thoroughly because you think in them you possess eternal life, and it is these same scriptures that testify about me," John 5.39.

In the Bible we see Jesus. He is God's answer for our every need, the greatest of which is reconciliation with our Creator.

If the Jews were so thorough and rigorous in their study of holy Scripture, in their search for eternal life, how much more should we be studying and applying it to learn of Christ and enter into the life that is God's?

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Love one another

“I give you a new commandment – to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples – if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35 NET).

Just after Jesus finished washing the feet of his disciples (John 13:1-17) and Judas had departed (John 13:18-33), Jesus began to give his final instructions to the men who had been with him for so long. Jesus loved these men (John 13:1) and he wanted to prepare them for what was about to happen (John 13:33).

Jesus began by giving them a “new” commandment: they were “to love one another.” At first glance we might ask what is new about a commandment to love each other? This had been part of God’s law for his people since they were at Mt Sinai. God had told his people, “You must not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the children of your people, but you must love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:18). What was new about telling his disciples to love each other?

The newness was not in the command to love, but in the depth of that love. In the Old Law, the command was to love others as we love ourselves. That, in itself, is a tall order. Do we really give to others the same leniency that we give to ourselves? Do we overlook the faults of others as quickly as we overlook our own?

The problem is that we are so used to our own inconsistencies and even our own sins that we sometimes no longer see them. When did you last quit speaking to yourself because of something you had done? If we love others as we love our selves we must not treat others differently from how we treat our self.

But Jesus calls us to a greater love. Notice what Jesus said: “Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” We are to love each other in the same way that Jesus loves us.

John explained it this way: “We have come to know love by this: that Jesus laid down his life for us; thus we ought to lay down our lives for our fellow Christians. But whoever has the world’s possessions and sees his fellow Christian in need and shuts off his compassion against him, how can the love of God reside in such a person?” (John 13:16-17).

We are called to love each other to the extent that we would die for each other. Although that is quite a tall order, how many of us will ever be called to do that? Notice the practical way John applies this – if we have this type of love we will help each other in any way that we can. Even if it requires washing the feet of someone else, as Jesus had just demonstrated in the upper room.

John referred to this command as the “new commandment” that is an “old commandment” (1 John 2:7-11). Our lives are to be full of love. Love for God and love for each other. Love each other as we love ourselves. Love each other to the point that we would die for each other. Love that is seen in how we treat each other.

When people see that we have this love for each other, they will recognise that Christians are different from those around them. This is something that is attractive to people. Those who know of Jesus will recognise that we are his followers – when they see visible proof of our love.

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SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study **9:00am**
Worship **10:00am**
Evening **5:00pm**

Wednesday

Bible Study **7:00pm**

Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*
for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalms 133:1

The process for becoming a Christian
is the same as it was over 2000 years
ago! To become a Christian, one must:

Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17

Believe the Gospel - Heb. 11:6

Repent of Sins - Luke 13:3

Confess Christ - Rom. 10:10

Be Immersed Into Christ - Acts 2:38

Live a Faithful Life - Rev. 2:10

None of these alone will make you a
Christian. These commands are from
God and must be obeyed from the
heart to become a Christian.

Prayer List



Paula Wanner	Henry Vandagriff
Joey Pierce	Faye Johnson
Phillip Pharr	Ellie Sander
Barbara Blackman	Stephanie Moore
Larry Sartain	Flora Wanner
Dorsa Sparks	Jennifer Steger
Lou Dodson	Shane Stevens
Mike Braden	Allison Heitzman
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
Sammy Green	Brenda Leatherwood
Charlotte Lard	David James
Janice Moody	Jimmy Searcy
Edna Wren	Edgar Cannon
Carolyn Holcomb	Mark Vandagriff



November Birthdays

Wil Williams 11/5

Abel Cozort 11/15

Graydon Tidwell 11/16

Doris Johnson 11/18

November Anniversaries

Joey & Sherry 11/29

Sympathy