

Second Street Church of Christ



December 10, 2017

MINISTER

Office

662-454-9429

P.O. Box 126
Belmont, Ms. 38827

Website:
secondstreetcofc.com



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***

The helper

*H*ave you ever wondered how the apostles and writers of the good news of Jesus were able to record all the things he did while teaching and helping people? Not only did Matthew, Mark, Luke and John record the events of Jesus' life, but they did it without contradicting each other.

How did Peter, Paul, James, Jude, and John know what to write in the letters they sent to the first Christians? How did they know what Jesus wanted written down about living the Christian life, not only for those living then but also for those who would be Christians in the future? Again, they did it without contradicting the other writers.

Jesus explained to the apostles how this would work – and more – before he was crucified. That last night Jesus spent with his apostles he had much to tell them. Sadly, there wasn't much time and they weren't ready to understand it. He told them, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now" (John 16:12 ESV). How would the apostles remember all these things and know what to pass on? The answer was the Holy Spirit.

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:25–26).

Jesus would send the Holy Spirit to help them in these things. The Greek word used to describe him is *parakletos*. Like many words from another language, this does not have an exact equivalent in English. Older translations used "comforter" but that doesn't describe him accurately in modern English. Current translations use "counselor", "assistant", "advocate", and "helper". All of these words also have drawbacks, as they could suggest someone who is lower-ranking or have too broad a definition. Perhaps if we thought of the Holy Spirit as all of these we would get a better idea about him.

The Holy Spirit would allow the apostles to remember what Jesus had taught them. They did not have to rely on their memory of what Jesus said (and there is no evi-

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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.

Wayne Scott will be speaking today.

Scripture and Song followed by fellowship meal tonight. If you are visiting with us please make plans to join us.

What About Today?

You can say a kind word. You can speak about 4800 words per day, why not devote some of them to kindness?

You can encourage someone to try again. Expressing confidence in them will provide the emotional support they need to succeed.

You can allow God to speak to you. Instead of having a “sound proof” head, spend some time in careful Bible study.

You can be great or you can remain just another insignificant human being. How to be great? Jesus said, “whoever desires to be great among you, let him be your servant” (Matthew 20:26).

(Continued from page 1)

dence that they were taking notes!). The Spirit would enable them to accurately teach and record what they had heard.

Notice, as well, that he would “teach you all things.” There were other things they needed to know that Jesus would not personally be able to tell them. The Holy Spirit would take care of this, too. Jesus went on to explain that the Spirit would guide them into all they needed to know.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you” (John 16:13–15).

These were promises made to the apostles. Although we receive the Holy Spirit as God’s gift when we are immersed into Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are never given these two promises. It would be difficult to bring to our minds what we never heard Jesus teach – we weren’t there! Although the Spirit does not guide us directly into all truth, we are guided into the truth through the words the apostles wrote down which they were guided in by the Spirit.

Are we listening to what the Spirit has revealed for us in the pages of scripture?

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Isaiah's new heaven and new earth

Did you know that in Isaiah's new heavens and a new earth people die (Isaiah 65:17-22), but typically not before reaching a hundred years old? Put another way, they will succeed in living as long as trees do. This can span several hundred years. Yet, I thought that people would live forever in heaven! What's this?

How do we handle such an unexpected wrinkle? Ignore or downplay death in heaven? Assert Isaiah's descriptive language constitutes a metaphor for something else? Embrace the security of the most popularly accepted viewpoint?

Perhaps the best approach begins by avoiding intuitive conclusions in order to examine the context. As many have acknowledged, "Context is king."

Isaiah presents us with two contexts. Not only does a textual context exist, we also possess the context of cosmic language in prophetic oracles.

As for the textual context of Isaiah 40-66, it relays God's message to his captive people in Babylon. Chapters 65 and 66 fall into three sections providing Yahweh's response to Israel's earlier complaint against him for not answering their call for help. God reveals that it was he who had repeatedly called to them, but the majority of them did not answer his call. So, God will destroy his rebellious people while restoring a remnant (Isaiah 65:1-16).

Second, having distinguished between his true servants and the pretenders, the true servants will forget their former difficulties as God's blessings enable them to enjoy a rebuilt Jerusalem, the fruits of their labors, and long lives enveloped in an environment of peace (Isaiah 65:17-25).

Students of God's word shun the practice of taking phrases or verses out of context.

Finally, God announced he will bless those who will serve him with a bright future. In fact, the faithful will even succeed in going out into the nations to bring to Jerusalem those who do not know God. Yet God also simultaneously announced harsh punishment for the majority of his people who worship idols (Isaiah 66:1-24).

As for prophetic contexts in Isaiah, cosmic language of both sky and earth often depict either blessings or destruction. For example, imagery such as watered ways becoming a desert, fire scorching the land, barrenness replacing fertility, and the extinguishing of celestial lights convey a nation's downfall (Isaiah 19:1,5; 10:12,17-18; 34:8-10; 15:1,6; 13:1,10). In fact, although an oracle of doom might be focused against a particular nation, the language envelops the earth (Is. 13:1,5). Conversely, the imagery of deserts becoming streams, fertility replacing barrenness and celestial lights shining even brighter announce God's blessing upon a nation (Is. 30:25,26; 41:14,18-19).

Students of God's word shun the practice of taking phrases or verses out of context. In order to gain an author-centered understanding, thus avoiding a reader-centered interpretation, requires us to consider how the context shapes the meaning within a verse or paragraph, even when its meaning might seem obvious at a quick glance. What was the author trying to communicate? How does the context contribute toward that understanding?

My purpose in this article is to stimulate Bible study. The question is, should we allow either or both of the two contexts briefly described above to influence our understanding of Isaiah's new heavens and a new earth? If so, what do we understand?

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	Dianne Vandagriff
Cassie Tierce	Ruth James
Phillip Pharr	Betty Moore
Stephanie Moore	Barbara Trollinger
Ellie Sander	John Johnson
Lou Dodson	Lynn Sander
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
Jimmy Searcy	Barbara White
Christy Hickox	Brenda Leatherwood
Susan Vandagriff	Kenneth Orrick
Patsy Wanner	Henry Vandagriff
Christian Harris	Linda Parker
David Alexander	Brenda Labinsky
Ralph Montgomery	Francis Mortland



December Birthdays

Flora Waner 12/3
Faye Johnson 12/15
MaKala Johnson 12/17
Steve Holcomb 12/21
Jan Higginbottom 12/26
Joe Horton 12/29

December Anniversaries

Sympathy

Alexander Family