

The Pastor Ponders: Handling The Word of Truth

This month (Lord willing) I'm going to do something that I probably should have done long ago. I'm FINALLY going to learn how to study the Bible!

Of course, I should probably clarify that statement by adding that I'm FINALLY going to learn how to study the Bible USING a set of computer-based Bible study tools that I acquired many years ago. You see, back in the early 1990's (when I was graduating from seminary and entering professional ministry), some of the first "high-powered biblical software packages" were becoming available. And since I was a "scholar wannabe," I invested in a suite of resources from Logos Research Systems (www.logos.com). Over the years, I've spent quite a bit of money adding commentaries and books and "original language" resources to my collection. And now, I've got the capacity to do *in seconds* the kind of biblical research that in previous generations would have taken *months if not years*.

But here's the rub: Although I've got access to all that knowledge and insight, I've never really taken advantage of it. Most of the potential of these powerful tools has remained beyond my grasp because I've never learned how to use them. And so – after many years – I'm finally going to get some training in the proper use of my "Logos" software. *And who knows?* I'd like to think that my preaching and teaching will be strengthened as a result.

I can't help but wonder if what can be said about me and my Bible software *in particular* – can also be said about us and the Bible *in general*. We've got access to an incredible amount of knowledge and insight (and power) that God wants to give us so that we can know Him – and understand His will – and partner with Him in the redemption of the world. *But do we really take advantage of it?* Are we doing our best "to present ourselves to God as ones approved – workers who do not need to be ashamed and who correctly handle the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15)?

In a book titled, *Your God is Too Safe*, a preacher named Mark Buchanan frames the issue like this:

Curious times, these. There is simultaneously a glut of the Word of God and a famine of it...a drought and a deluge. We have every translation of the Bible you can imagine: the NIV, the NEV, and the KJV...the Preacher's Bible, the Spirit-Filled Believer's Bible, the Left-Handed Bald Gypsy Fiddler's Bible (that last was made up). You can have it in hardback, paperback, leather, or cloth...in pink, blue, red, orange, or psychedelic paisley...with maps and charts and concordances and holograms of the Temple in the back...and a little sleeve with a CD-ROM that takes you on a guided tour of the Holy Land.

The food is out there—and it's a banqueting table. We're just picky eaters. Oh, we're buying Bibles. And sometimes we're even reading them. But there's not much evidence that we're studying them. We're nibbling, not devouring. And you are what you eat.

I won't assume that "learning more about the Bible" was high on your list of New Year's Resolutions. And yet, I think we sense that many of the "heart questions" with which we struggle – *How should I live? How am I going to get through this? Is there hope?* – are answered within the pages of God's Word. That, of course, is why we offer Sunday School – and Women's Bible study – and Youth Bible

(Continued on page 2)

study – and Tuesday Morning Bible study – and Wednesday Night Bible study – *and I hope you'll take advantage of those opportunities!* But even more, I hope you'll ask yourself: "When am I going to learn how to study the Bible?" And then consider: What could you do this year, or this month (or even today) to feast on the riches of God's Word?

May God make us *doers* of that Word – and not hearers only.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Alex*

Church Life Updates

- **JOY Lunch:** Joy Group (Just Older Youth) will meet on Wednesday, February 1 at 12:00 noon. Please meet at Cracker Barrel.
- **Fidget February!:** On Friday, February 10 at 10:00 a.m. we are going to make "Fidget Blankets" for those in our homes or care facilities with Alzheimer's or dementia. The lap blankets have different things like buttons and zippers and ribbons attached to keep fingers busy. Please join us to assemble these blankets. If you have sewing skills and a machine, please bring your machine to help us attach the items to the blankets. If you do not have time to participate, but would like to contribute, we could use things like fleece for the back of the blankets, buttons, zippers, yarn, latches and buckles that could be attached to the blankets. Contact Teresa Martin to learn more.
- **Baptist Women's Day:** We will celebrate Baptist Women's Day on Sunday, February 12. Our guest speaker will be Kristin Leathers. We hope you can join us for this special day.
- **Make A Joyful Noise:** Are you looking for a new way to get involved at church? Why not join the choir? We meet Wednesday nights at 7:15 p.m., and have a wonderful time together singing songs and enjoying a great fellowship. Consider joining, and bring a friend along for the ride!
- **Adult Bible Study:** Calvary's Tuesday Morning Bible Study for adults meets each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Currently, we are exploring the New Testament book of James in our first session for 2017. Those who are able to attend are invited to share lunch at a nearby restaurant after the study. Please note: In the event of inclement weather, this study group will follow the lead of Surry County Schools (i.e. "No School" = "No Study").
- **Cookbooks:** We have 60 cookbooks available for purchase. Contact Mary Jane Shelton if you would like to purchase a book.
- **Ladies Bible Study:** All ladies are invited to join the Bible study on Sunday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. However, please note that we will not meet on February 5. This study will continue through February 26. We hope you can join us.
- **Women in Mission:** All ladies are welcomed to join us at the next meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. We will meet in the fellowship hall. For more information about Women in Mission, contact Donna Keck.
- **Thank You From Finance Committee:** We would like to thank the congregation of Calvary for faithful giving in the 2016 budget year. Because of your generosity, we have exceeded the budget by \$1,672. Having the money simply means that we were able to do more work for the kingdom of God. Bless you for continuing to give so we can fulfill our mission as a caring fellowship. -The Budget and Finance Committee

Through Thirst Missions, the world leader in short-term mission trips to Belize, Calvary has partnered for the next five years with El Faro Encendido church in the city of Copper Bank. Currently Pastor Cal says he has about 30 children that attend on a regular basis. Calvary has committed to praying for them during our partnership. In July we are taking a group of adults there to help with any projects they may have. This will be a great opportunity to spread the word of God in the community too. Please take the time to connect with Thirst Missions on Facebook to see the difference they are making in Belize and around the world. You can also look at their website at ThirstMissions.org.



Recent Contributions

In Memory of Lucy Brown

Roger and Donna Keck

In memory of Lora Davenport

William and Jane Goins

In Memory of Vera Forrest

Susan Arnold

Brenda Barfield

J. A. and Claudia Bryant

Mary Nell Byrd

Bodey and Vicki Fields

Virginia Garner

Randy and Sylvia Gentry

Larry and Sylvia Hicks

Norris and Jo Hodge

Roger and Donna Keck

Glenda Laster

Ed and Jettie McMasters

Judy Overby

Mary Jo Roberts

Ruth SS Class

Howard and Thelma Shelton

Owen and Sandra Stone

JoAnn Surratt

Johnny and Paulette Surratt

William and Martha Tucker

In memory of Tom Douglas

J. A. and Claudia Bryant

In Memory of Ken Harris

J. A. and Claudia Bryant

Randy and Sylvia Gentry

Roger and Donna Keck

In Memory of Faye Jarrell

William and Jane Goins

In Memory of Gray Jarrell

Cedar Ridge Elementary School

The Norris Jarrell Family

Howard and Thelma Shelton

In Memory of Mike Lowe

Rick and Libby Bagby

Peter Blum III

Ray and Vernell Goins

Jim and Lilnette Phillips

Surry County Schools

Timothy and Susan Thomas

Earl and Jan Varney

In Honor of Wes Martin

J. A. and Claudia Bryant

The following contribution was omitted from our last newsletter. We apologize for the oversight.

In Memory of Ellis Hamby

Brenda Barfield



**Memorials
and
Gifts**

Notes of Gratitude

Dear Calvary, Thank you so much for the beautiful cards for my 101st birthday! I was touched and honored by your thoughtfulness. ~ With Love, Myrtle Wagoner

Dear Calvary, Our family would like to thank the church for the calls, meal, and most of all the thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Please continue to pray for our family and again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. ~ The Family of Gray Jarrell

To Women's Ministry at Calvary: Thank you so much for the fellowship and food provided to us after Vera's funeral. Since I came into the Forrest Family in August 1969, I have always cherished the fellowship of Calvary's members. The food was delicious, but mostly the loving support given to us as the Forrest Family was heart-warming. ~ Thanks Again, Dianna & Mike Forrest

Dear Calvary Baptist Friends, Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Baptist Children's Homes of NC. Your love, prayers, and support help bring hope and healing to children and families whose lives have been shattered. Many come to know Christ because your church cares. Thank you for sharing hope and changing lives! ~ Blessed to Serve, Karen Slate of Baptist Children's Homes of NC

Dear Church Family, Since Mildred fell on August 19th, you have gone overboard to show your love and caring for us. The prayers, visits to the hospitals and Golden Living, the flowers, the food and every act of love have meant the world to us. We came home to Mildred's house on December 10th and she is making progress. Continue to remember us in your prayers and drop by to see us if you have a spare moment. ~ Love, Margaret & Mildred Jarrell

For God so loVed the world
thAt He gave His
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIeves
iN Him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)



Church Statistics

Budget Year 2017 As of 1/22/17	Budget to Date	Receipts to Date	Expenditures to Date	Receipts minus Expenditures
General	\$29,450.49	\$33,379.65	\$14,000.21	\$19,379.44
Debt Retirement	\$1,236.23	\$1,405.00	\$1,820.21	(\$415.21)
Transportation	\$593.38	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$45.00
Debt Reduction Funds Available as of 1/22:			\$9,744.33	
Total Debt Balance as of 1/22:			\$157,424.92	
Endowment Fund as of 1/22:			\$37,295.91	

If you have any questions about the budget please see Bob Peake.

	Jan 1, 2017	Jan 8, 2017	Jan 15, 2017	Jan 22, 2017
Sunday School	158	snow	170	180
Uplift	73	no	75	97
Traditional	147	services	171	130
Total Worship	220	0	246	227
General	\$5,615.00	\$0.00	\$12,583.00	\$9,209.00
Debt Retirement	\$235.00	\$0.00	\$710.00	\$460.00
Transportation	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Church Calendar

Date	Time	Activity
Feb 1	12 noon	JOY Lunch at Cracker Barrel
Feb 2	6:30 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
Feb 7	6:30 p.m.	B.Y.W.
Feb 10	10:00 a.m.	JOY Project—Fidget Blankets
Feb 12	Baptist Women's Day	
Feb 19	5:00 p.m.	Finance Meeting
Feb 28	10:30 AM	Women In Mission

Date	Deacon of the Week	Good Shepherds
Feb 5	Mike Francis 336-830-1655	Bob McPherson 336-786-8748 Sam Critz 336-341-8248
Feb 12	Sam Critz 336-341-8248	Ken Nowlin 336-786-1519 David Stone 336-401-5898
Feb 19	David Stone 336-401-5898	Marvin Beasley 336-786-5639 Doug Odell 336-583-6448
Feb 26	Benny Lisk 336-415-5311	Brent Hull 336-786-7992 Mike Francis 336-830-1655

