

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 30 APRIL 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Our dear sister **Fran Spencer** passed away Tuesday morning at the age of 90. Fran and her husband Len were a vital part of this congregation for many years, and all of us that knew Fran will miss her. This is, however, what she was praying for; so let us, in our sorrow, rejoice that Fran has “departed to be with Christ.”
- It was so great to see our sister **Pat Butler** last Sunday! She continues to gain strength and she will meet with her doctors at the end of June. Pray for complete healing!
- Pray for **Anna Mickle**, she is really struggling with her health and misses getting to be with her Bellaire family.
- **Holly Ann, Sharon’s daughter** will have her last chemotherapy tomorrow, May 1st and will have surgery in June. Continue to pray that Holly Ann’s healing.
- **Terry Kornfeld’s dad** is in ICU, but he is doing a little better.
- Continue praying for those with on-going health issues. **Bob Stark, Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn, Don Hurd, Fran Spencer, and Johnny Martinez.**
- **Sermon Title: A New Direction**
- **Reminder: Next Sunday, May 7th**, we will have our first Sunday singing and prayer meeting at 1:30, make plans to join us!

SCHEDULE

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Bible Study

SERVICE

Welcome - D. Broadwell
Song Leader - W. Hodge
Opening Prayer - J. Martinez
Lesson - S. Garrett
Announcements - M. Pharris
Closing Prayer - H. Banks

BIBLE CLASSES

Old Testament Survey

- Brian Haley
- Auditorium

Gospel of Mark

- Daniel Broadwell
- Back Classroom

Classes for children

WHO ARE WE?

A group of God’s children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament

ELDERS

Brian Haley
Mark Mann
Mike Pharris

DEACONS

Scott Clanton
David Davila
Dan Kimbrough
Jesse Knapp
Alex Morolez
Gregory Williams

EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell
Steve Garrett

CONTACT US

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DIRECTORY UPDATES

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4 Tips to Help You Better Understand the Bible

By: Wes McAdams

Editors Note: This article has been split into two parts because of length. The first tip is in last week's bulletin, and the other three are here. I hope you find this article helpful for your bible reading and study.

1. Clothe Yourself in Humility (see last week's article)

2. Understand the Context

Understanding what a passage of Scripture means has so much to do with the context. If you take a verse out of its context, it can seem to mean any number of things. However, when you consider it in its original context, it means what the author intended for it to mean.

- ▶ **Cultural/Historical Context** – The first part of the context is determining what was going on in that time and place. We have to try to determine what this passage meant to the person who was writing it and the people who were first reading it. We have to ask ourselves, "Would this interpretation make sense to those people?" We aren't trying to be historians or scholars, but we are trying to make sure our understanding fits the cultural and historical context.
- ▶ **Literary Context** – The other part of context is understanding what comes before and after this passage. First of all, what genre of literature is it? Every genre has its own rules for interpretation. Poetry, historical narratives, letters, prophecies, all have to be interpreted according to their type of literature. And we also have to take into consideration what the author was talking about in that particular book and in that particular paragraph. Ask yourself, "Does this interpretation fit the context?"

3. Follow the Author's Train of Thought

One good thing to do is outline the book. You need to understand where the story or the argument is headed. If you can't understand the author's train of thought, you probably don't really understand what the passage means. Before you quote a verse to prove a point, ask yourself, "Do I understand what the author was talking about in that book of the Bible? Do I understand how his argument was progressing and what point he was trying to prove to his audience?"

4. Check Your Conclusions

Using a commentary – or asking a respected Christian friend for his or her thoughts – is an important step. You don't want to cheat yourself out of the joy of discovering what a passage means on your own, but you also want to be careful that you are arriving at good conclusions. If you read and interpret the Bible in isolation, you forfeit the benefits of other people's study and understanding. You might not understand the full implications of your interpretation until you check your conclusions with someone else. And if you're the only person who has ever interpreted a passage in a particular way, you are most certainly mistaken. Christians have been studying the Bible for a couple of thousand years; we need to learn from one another.

Bottom Line: If we are going to apply the Bible to our lives, we must first understand what it means. And if we are going to understand what the Bible means, we must do the hard work of interpretation. Hopefully these tips help you on that journey.