

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 937

February 24, 2013

Why Study the Bible?

Many people are simply not knowledgeable with regard to the Bible. We expect those outside the church to be weak regarding Bible knowledge, but so often those who have been members of the Lord's body for many years have only basic Bible knowledge. If we are going to defend from external and internal dangers, we need to be well armed with the truth. Why study the Bible?

1. **It is commanded.** Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 2:15, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" The 1901 American Standard Version translates this verse, "*Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth.*" Even though the original Greek work for "study" (σπουδασον) goes beyond our standard definition of "study," and indicates diligence and endeavoring, studying in the traditional academic sense is certainly part of that.

2. **Destruction comes from not studying.** The Lord warned in Hosea 4:6, "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy*

children." As we see so many problems threatening our society and shaking its very foundation, we can trace such actions back to the fact that most have no inkling of what the Bible truly says. Many who have some knowledge have had it distorted and warped by years of false teaching.

3. **It is wise.** We would not trust our money in just any bank or the care of children to just anyone off the street. Even more so, how careful should we be about what we believe to be the truth? Do we simply accept what the minister or Bible class teacher presents? We need to be like those at Berea. We are told in Acts 17:11 that they "*. . . were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*"

4. **We will properly grow.** All of us expect a newborn child to grow. At the first sign of failure to grow, medical assistance will be sought.

We need to be as quick to react when the lack of spiritual growth is noted. The writer of Hebrews in 5:12-14 stated, "*For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*" ¹³*For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.* ¹⁴*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

Have we been Christians for many years, maybe even decades, and yet know very little beyond what we did when we first became Christians? If that is the case, then we are not properly growing and developing.

5. **We can teach others.** In I Peter 3:15 we are told, "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*"

Can we explain with confidence the plan of salvation to someone while showing Bible references? Can we show why we are not just another religious group, but the "one body?" This is the way the gospel spreads. Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 2:2, "*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*"

6. **We will be judged by the words of the Bible.** When you were in school, did you ever take an "open-book" test? The teacher permitted you

Munfordville Church of Christ
104 Back St — P.O. Box 322
Munfordville, KY 42765
(270) 524-3345
www.munfordvillechurchofchrist.com

Marty Edwards, Minister
577 Possum Trot Road
Hardyville, KY 42746
(270) 528-1298
martywedwards@gmail.com

Sunday 9 AM & 4 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

News

—Continue to remember **Sally Marshall, Jewell Watkins, and Jean Coffey. Kerry McDaniel** tore the medial collateral ligament in his left knee this past week. He is scheduled to have

surgery in the morning to repair it. At this point, the surgery is expected to be outpatient. There was concern that the grandson of Shirley Edwards, **John Mark Thrasher**, had diabetes. Further tests show he does not, but needs to continue monitoring blood sugar levels.

—Congratulations to **Matthew Edwards** who was accepted at the University of Kentucky. He received notification of this on February 21, which was his 18th birthday.

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to use a textbook and maybe other sources while testing. Though such tests were easier than the normal examinations, you still had to be familiar with the material and know where to look for the answers.

The same principle applies in our Christianity. We have all the information available to us by which we will be judged. There will be no surprises at the Judgment. We are told by Jesus in John 12:48, *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”*

When we sign an important contract regarding property transfers, a will, or other legal documents, we would be well advised to read and understand every word and phrase. If necessary, we should obtain assistance.

How much more then should we examine every word of the Bible? Yet many Christians do not know what is contained in much of the Bible. There are probably many chapters, and even entire books, that are completely foreign to some children of God.

We need to engage in a daily study of the Bible. When we become too busy to spend sufficient time with the Bible, we are too busy. Make a sincere investigation of God’s Word a top priority every day.

—Marty Edwards

Sunday, February 17, 2013		
Classes	18	John 17:1-17
Preaching	33	Revelation 21-22
Contribution	\$555.00	
Evening	15	Nehemiah 6:1-19
Wednesday, February 20, 2013		
Classes	16	Judges 12:1-15

Feb 17 (AM) Bryan & Danielle Spears (Lexington, KY); Cody Ballard (Glasgow, KY); Anthony Candella (Cave City, KY); Curtis McDaniel (Uno, KY); Tara Perkins (Uno, KY)

Visitors—

Feb 17 (PM) Joanna Locke (Hardyville, KY)

I first published this week’s article on November 12, 1995. I couldn’t help but think how much has changed since then that greatly helps us with our study of the Bible on our phones. In 1995 the Internet was not used by many people. I first got on the Internet in Septebmer 1995. Even cell phones were not all that common and certainly no email or Internet access on the phones. Now, one can simply read the Bible on their phones or have it read to them. We can listen to services if unable to attend as services are ongoing or listen to them later. The LORD has permitted technology to advance rapidly in just a few years. Let’s use this to further our knowledge of His holy word which is able to save our souls. —Marty Edwards❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)