

The Floral Heights Informer

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Bible Basics

Jesus preached the “*gospel of the kingdom*” while on this earth (Matt. 4:23). The Lord intended for his audience to hear and understand the words of divine revelation (Matt. 15:10). The founding principle of the gospel message is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matt. 16:16ff). Each Christian is commanded to build upon this foundation principle. The Lord has equipped his saints with the necessary information to do so (Eph. 4:11ff). The apostle Paul wrote of the relationship between divine revelation and Christians saying, “*being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; in whom each several building, fitly framed together grows into a holy temple in the Lord; for a habitation of God in the Spirit*” (Eph. 2:20-22).

Each individual Christian has the duty to study God’s word and grow in spiritual strength. The apostle Peter stated, “*as newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation*” (I Pet. 2:2). Furthermore, the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy saying, “*Study to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth*” (II Tim. 2:15).

Most of the word of God is very simple to understand (cf. Matt. 11:28-30). There comes a time in each Christian’s life when he would want to move past the elementary principles of the doctrine of Christ (cf. Heb. 6:1ff). Care must be taken not to move to quickly past the elementary principles in an attempt to move on to weightier matters. There are passages in God’s word that

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors.

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

Emmalee McMahon (sister of Rosemary Garrison and long time member of the Floral Heights church of Christ) died this past Wednesday. Let us remember their family in this time of sorrow.

Be sure to peruse our **web page** from time to time. There are articles, sermon outlines, books of the Bible studies, audio sermons, archives of past gospel meetings, and a private members only page. The URL is www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
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are more difficult to tackle. Speaking of the apostle Paul, Peter said, *“as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; wherein are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unsteadfast wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction”* (II Pet. 3:16).

Christians often try to move too quickly through basic studies. Some attempt to move on to weightier matters before they are ready and thereby become confused, frustrated, and discouraged. Their discouragement often leads to lengthier times of inactive Bible study. Rather than progressing, they regress over time. Paul told the Corinthians, who had been Christians for 5 years at the time of his writing I Corinthians, *“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, as unto babes in Christ. I fed you with milk, not with meat; for ye were not yet able to bear it: nay, not even now are ye able;”* (I Cor. 3:1-2). While it is true that individual diligence and effort must be exerted, it is also true that we must understand elementary principles before mastering the weightier matters of God’s word. Studying the Bible can be compared to basic mathematics. Algebra cannot be comprehended without first mastering basic multiplication and division. I have always viewed the Bible as somewhat of a puzzle with large pieces. Each Bible puzzle piece has its proper place. Bible truths that are pieced together in their proper order and place leave one with the joy of comprehension.

There are basics that are necessary for the Christian to have an understanding of if he expects to remain in Christ and bring others to the hope of salvation. Subjects such as the scheme of redemption, Bible authority, the covenants, the church, grace, unity, fellowship, etc. must be mastered to move on to greater and more in-depth studies. If it has been a while since you have studied these Bible basics, or if you have never studied them, I want to encourage you to take the time to introduce and or reacquaint yourself with these basic principles.

Bible Basics

Jesus

Jesus said, “*except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*” Belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God is the founding principle upon which our faith is built. When Jesus asked the disciples who they believed he was Peter said, “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*” (Matt. 16:16). Jesus replied to Peter by saying, “*upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it*” (Matt. 16:18). Every sound building is constructed upon a solid foundation. The kingdom of God stands on a firm foundation in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:20-22). Let us examine Jesus this morning.

I. Man’s Need of a Savior:

- A. The common plight of all mankind throughout history is sin (cf. Rom. 3:23).
- B. Sin has its consequences (Rom. 6:23).
- C. No amount of good deeds or law keeping could ever erase one sin (Rom. 3:19-20).
- D. Jesus was the answer (Rom. 3:24-26).

II. Jesus in Prophecy:

- A. God knew man would disappoint Him before the world was even formed (cf. Eph. 1:3-7).
- B. God chose Abraham to bring the seed of Christ through (Gen. 12:1; Gal. 3:16).
- C. The prophets of God revealed bits and pieces of the time and nature of the Christ:
 1. Daniel gave a timeframe for when Christ should come (Dan. 2:28, 44-45).
 2. Micah tells of the place of Jesus’ birth (Bethlehem Judea) (Mic. 5:2).
 3. Isaiah tells the manner of the Lord’s birth (by a virgin) (Isa. 7:14).
 4. Isaiah tells of the nature of the Lord’s rule (Isa. 9:6-7) and of his great sacrifice for the sins of mankind (Isa. 53).
 5. Jeremiah tells of the Lord’s law of forgiveness (Jer. 31:31ff).
 6. The NT reveals all these prophecies to be fulfilled in the man Jesus (cf. Matt. 1:21-23).

III. Jesus in the NT:

- A. Jesus had a two fold objective while on earth:
 1. To preach the gospel of the kingdom (Matt. 4:23)
 - a. Repent (Matt. 4:17).
 - b. The kingdom of God was to come during the lifetime of some he preached to (Matt. 16:28; Mk. 9:1).
 - c. Jesus received his message from the Heavenly Father (Jn. 16)
 - d. Confirmed message with signs performed (Mk. 16:20; Jn. 20:30; Acts 2:22; Heb. 2:1-4).
 2. To serve as a propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the world (Rom. Eph. Heb. I Jn. 2:2).
- B. The Lord’s Character:
 1. Merciful (went to the cross for our sake) (Isa. 53:7-8; Jn. 18:36; Heb. 9:25-28).
 2. Compassionate (cared for the people’s physical needs / Matt. 14:14; 15:32).
 3. At times expressed righteous indignation (Mk. 3:5-6).
 4. Warned against the leavening affects of false teaching (Matt. 16:11-12).
- C. Jesus is a part of the Godhead:
 1. Jesus is God (Isa. 9:6; Matt. 1:23; Jn. 1:1, 14).
 2. Jesus declared his deity (cf. Lk. 8:39) and so did his disciples (Jn. 20:28).

Conclusion:

Jesus is the chief cornerstone of the Christian’s faith (Eph. 2:20-22). His actions and words define character. When I emulate the life of Christ my character will be viewed as acceptable in the eyes of God (I Cor. 11:1; I Pet. 2:21).