

midtown

M E S S E N G E R

Volume 5, Issue 38

September 18, 2022

If I Only Had A Bible

By: Dan Jenkins

While the Bible clearly affirms that it will completely supply us in every aspect of our work for the Lord (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**), some do not believe it. While the Bible clearly affirms that it contains everything which pertains to life and godliness (**2 Pet. 1:3**), some do not believe it. Consider the following.

Several years ago in a Bible study with the Jehovah's Witnesses I asked them, "If I only had a Bible, what would be the odds of me ever becoming a Jehovah's Witness?" Their answer, "I do not think it would ever happen—the odds would be one in a million." Think about the implication of this.

There was no religious group called Jehovah's Witnesses before 1931! The movement was founded by Charles Russell beginning in about 1880. The very name of the movement and many of the doctrines taught by that religion—the sinfulness of blood transfusion, the teaching that only 144,000 will go to heaven, internal structure of the movement centered around the *Watchtower* in Brooklyn, etc.—did not exist until Charles Russell spread that teaching. If I only had a Bible, there is no way to express the likelihood of one becoming a Witness. It simply would never happen. It takes more than a Bible to be a Witness.

Now apply that to all the religious movements in the denominational maze of our world. If I only had a Bible, would I wear any denominational

name? They are unknown in the Bible as names for God's people. If I only had a Bible, would I be a Mormon? A Seventh-Day Adventist? A Catholic? A Protestant? A Fundamentalist? Add any name of all the other denominations and ask the question, "If I only had a Bible, what would be the odds of me being a _____?"

It simply could not happen. These names are not found in the Bible, and if I limit myself to using the Bible as the only source revealing God's way, I would never wear these names. Now expand this concept and apply it to the church organizations and church hierarchies of our day. Apply it to the very acts of worship. Apply it to the diversity of teaching about morality, homosexuality, marriage and divorce. If you only had a Bible, what would you be religiously? What name would you wear? When and how would you worship? What would be the standard of morality you would embrace?

One more thought. When the church began and the Bible was written, what did the church look like? Remember they only had a Bible, and they became the church Jesus established. The only way denominations can exist is for them to teach more or teach less than the Bible teaches. So, follow only the Bible religiously. That is all you need to find God.

Need Some Good News?

Article Selected

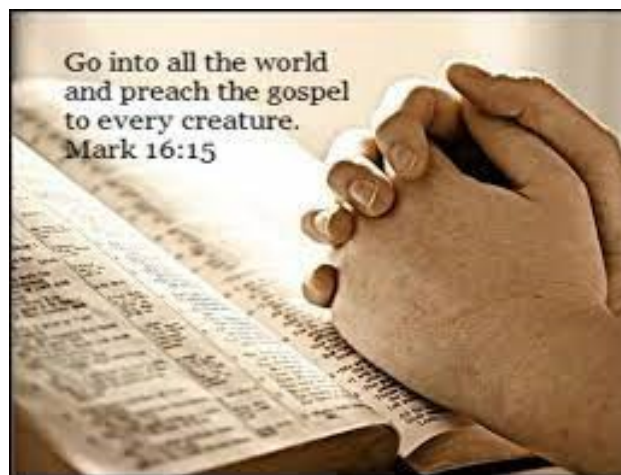
What is the best news you have ever been able to share? The announcement of an engagement or maybe the birth of a child? Perhaps a good report from the doctor or an important interview? Whatever the good news is, it feels good to share!

Our work as Christians is much like what Isaiah spoke about in his day. “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To grant those who mourn in Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified” (**Isa. 61:1-3**).

Paul talks about Christians sharing the good news as the “ministry of reconciliation” (**2 Cor. 5:18**). He mentions future judgment for all deeds done in the body, “whether good or bad” (**2 Cor. 5:10**). Then, based on that, “knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men” (**2 Cor. 5:11**). Even though some thought they were out of their minds, this was to the glory of God. Yet, those Christians knew them to be of sound mind, and the message was to their benefit (**2 Cor. 5:15**). Not too different from today. Many would consider the message of Christ to be crazy and not worth learning. We know the truth and press on. Paul says, “the love of Christ controls/compels us” to share the message (**2 Cor. 5:14**). “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (**2 Cor. 5:20-21**).

We get to share the best news ever! We are ambassadors of eternal peace, in a heavenly realm, with an all-powerful Ruler. Our governing authority has shown that He cares for us individually and collectively. “Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ... namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation” (**2 Cor. 5:18-19**).

We warn and persuade men away from the judgment to come toward reconciliation. We share with others that will allow them to stand with confidence before the throne on the day of their judgment! Will they all listen? No. Will they say we are crazy and mock us? Maybe. We get to say that a child was born, a bride is waiting, death is conquered, and we can nail that final interview.



Upcoming Events

TODAY: Ron White will be preaching in the morning; Kevin Sheeran in the evening.

The Friday Game Night for Sept. 23 has been cancelled.

Sun. 9/25: Ben Moseley will be with us all day.

Sun. 10/2: Ron White will be preaching in the morning; James Cammock in the evening.

Sun. 10/9: Brandon Starling and his family will be here!

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

Sept. 25-27: Gospel Meeting with Mike Vestal at Mathis church of Christ

Sept. 25-28: Gospel Meeting with John Grubb at Schertz church of Christ.

Oct. 7-9: Creation & Evolution Seminar at Weber Road

Oct. 15: Saturday Workshop for Bible class teachers at Mathis church of Christ Ladies Day.

Nov. 12: Bible Bowl 2022 at Weber Road

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Joyce Salaris, a friend of Vergie Shelton and Ken and Nancy Dorries who is having health issues.

B.J. Davis' family. B.J. passed away this past week.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Service Roster

Week of September 18, 2022

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Jeff Cannady
Song Leader Rick Bass

Opening Prayer..... James Cammock
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ken Dorries
Cup..... Doug Jobs
Offering..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Jack Jobs
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Ken Dorries

Opening Prayer..... Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord's Supper & Offering..... ... Doug Jobs,
Ken Dorries

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... James Cammock
Song Leader Doug Jobs
Devotional Doug Jobs

Other

Prepare Communion Nina Siegel

Congregational News

Birthdays

Dan Fielder.....Sept. 20

Please sign up to prepare communion and opening & close the building for October through December 2022. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Food Helpers for the month of Sept. - Team A.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Weekly Reading

“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand
what the will of the Lord is.”
Ephesians 5:17

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of September 11, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....58
A.M. Worship.....76
P.M. Worship.....58
Wednesday Bible Class.....55
Offering week of September 11, 2022.....3,403

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
B.K. York *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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