

It's THANKSGIVING week so that prompts me to reflect on what I'm most thankful for: first & foremost would be salvation found only in Jesus my Lord, next the wife & family God has blessed me with, and finally, it's YOU, my 70 West family. Thank you for your prayerful support & encouragement. I'm already looking forward to 2026.

Speaking of 2026, Our BIBLE STUDY MADE EASY 2026 campaign is only 5 weeks away. I deeply appreciate the number (98 as of now) who have committed to trying this unique way of covering the entire Bible in just 1-year. THANK YOU!



If you missed the presentation in October, BIBLE STUDY MADE EASY will divide the Bible into 365 daily chronological lessons. Each daily lesson will contain a summary of that day's chronological text plus the main points to remember from the text.

Originally the daily lessons were going to be presented as an online class but that presented a problem. Not all of our 70 West family members have WIFI, and not all have smart phones. I don't want to leave ANYONE OUT so BIBLE STUDY MADE EASY will be presented as our Sunday morning Bible class. That way EVERYONE can be involved.

Each Sunday morning, beginning on December 28, I will present the coming week's daily lessons during the 9 AM auditorium class, using the study guides that will be available on the podium near the side exit doors.

The study guides will have each day's summary already printed. You will only have to write in the main points as I share them off the PowerPoint screen (anything you write down is more likely to be remembered, so that's a plus).

You may place the weekly outlines in a notebook that will be distributed on December 21 & 28. By the end of 2026 your notebook will be full of daily summaries and the main points of the Bible. What happens to the current study of John (the Up Close with Jesus Study Series)? At this moment I do not know. We have several preachers & students overseas that have been using the class on John as their Sunday morning class. I'm trying to figure out a way to get this John class to them now as BIBLE STUDY MADE EASY replaces John on Sunday mornings beginning on December 28.

Now, as I close out all my online Bible classes, it is our hope, it is our wish, it is our prayer that we all live for Jesus 24/7...may God bless YOU!

~Michael Cox

501/545.1525 • preachermichaelcox@gmail.com

10:15 AM Order of Worship

Welcome/Prayer.....Michael Cox
Song Leader.....Jonathan Bonde

R#63 - 'I Will Call upon the Lord'
R#242 - 'Sing Hallelujah to the Lord'

Prayer.....Clayton Wells

R#452 - 'Standing on the Promises'
R#176 - 'Lamb of God'

COMMUNION

Scripture Reading & Prayer
Tim Wiemer / Willie Butler

R#464 - 'Because He Lives'

Scripture Reading.....Tim Wiemer
Sermon.....Josh Romo

"HOW CAN I BE SURE JESUS IS LORD?"
I Corinthians 15:17-19

R#544 - 'Without Him'
B#387 - 'Lead Me to Some Soul Today'

Prayer.....Festus Ugade

B=Brown Book ♪ R=Red Book ♪ SC=Screen

6:00 PM Order of Worship

Welcome/Prayer.....Michael Cox
Song Leader.....Danny Griffith

R#611 - 'Heavenly Sunlight'
R#992 - 'Can You Count the Stars?'

Prayer.....John Tolleson

R#18 - 'Faithful Love'

COMMUNION

Scripture Reading & Prayer
Tim Wiemer / Willie Butler

R#753 - 'Farther Along'

Scripture Reading.....Tim Wiemer
Sermon.....Josh Romo

"THE MAN WHO BOUNCED BACK"
Acts 15:36-41

R#924 - 'Just As I Am'
B#387 - 'Lead Me to Some Soul Today'

Prayer.....Festus Ugade

OCTOBER ELDERS / DEACONS
TIM TOGAMI / DEREK LANDRUM

BAPTISMAL ASSISTANTS:
Lynn Dishongh & Kim Nickolson

Adult Bible Classes 9AM:

Auditorium
Michael Cox

Room#118
"History of the Church"
-Andy McCormick

Room#112/Library
"First Principles"
-Danny Griffith

MPB-1st floor
Young Professionals
- Tim Togami

Children's 9AM BIBLE CLASSES:

MPB-2nd floor: 9th - 12th
Josh Romo

Room#113: 5th -8th
Mark Livingston

Room#114: 1st -4th
Angela Livingston

Room#108: 4yrs -K
Martha Dean

Room#107: 3yrs
Christie Landrum

Room#105: 1-2 yrs
Barbara Wells &
Autumn Wells

Room#106: 3-18 months
Cradle Roll
Barbara Pate

Our Record: 11/16/2025

9:00 AM Bible Class.....129
10:15 AM Worship.....220
PM Worship.....112
Wednesday Bible Class.....101
Contribution.....\$9,882.23

Hearing Assistance
Available
~ Please ask for a
receiver from the
sound room



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Welcome!



But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

1 Peter 3:15

DEALING with GRIEF

70W church of CHRIST • 948 AIRPORT RD, HOT SPRINGS, AR
www.hotspringschurchofchrist.org

- **SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026**
- **10:00AM: Session 1**
- **12:00 PM: Sandwiches provided in MPB**
- **01:30 PM: Sessions 2 & 3**
- **SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026**
- **09:00 AM: Bible Class**
- **10:15 AM: Worship**

Jerry L Martin,
PhD, LPC-S,
is a minister &
Christian counselor
licensed in Alabama &
Tennessee



SUNDAY: BIBLE CLASS @9:00 AM; WORSHIP @10:15 AM; WORSHIP @6:00 PM;



Keeping Bible verses in Bible Context (Part 3)

Another statement made indicated that the Bible endorses slavery. Once more, let us look at the context in which the verses cited are used. The verses cited are Exodus 21:5-6 and Leviticus 25:44: Exodus 21:5-6 - "And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever." Leviticus 25:44 - "Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen and bondmaids." First, let's deal with Exodus 21; the passage here deals with Hebrew servants. In other words, servants that were kinsmen or also Israelites. If we read the context of Exodus 21, we quickly realize that these are not slaves but rather what we might term serfs; in other words, servants that would eventually be set free under the law. As such, they were not slaves under the classic definition. Now, Leviticus 25:44 - what we must understand here is why this was written. Under the patriarchal age, slavery was a patriarchal custom. Those that were not Hebrew were permitted to be kept as slaves. This does not mean that God endorsed slavery but rather allowed while at the same time discouraging it by putting so many laws and restrictions governing the ownership of slaves. These slaves may have been captives of war, those consigned to slavery for their crimes, or as the Hebrew servants often were, just poor and sold themselves into slavery to pay off debt. It was the object to not at once do away with slavery, but to discourage it and mitigate it. The Law of God under Moses would not suffer it be forgotten that the slave was a man, not an animal, and protected him in every way that was possible at the time against the injustice or cruelty of his master. So, once more, upon examining the context (including the background) we see that God never advocated nor endorsed slavery.

The statement was made that the Bible "endorsed" the "beating and killing of children" and cited Psalm 137:9 which states, "Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones." At first glance, this verse would indeed seem to advocate just that. But again if we will but notice the context we will see that God is not endorsing the killing of children. Reference is here in this chapter made of Babylon and a custom of Babylon in raiding and conquering other nations was to take the children of those captured and dash, sling, or throw them against the stones while making the parents watch. The Psalmist is simply saying here that Babylon will have those atrocities repaid upon her; nothing more and nothing less.

The next one is actually CLOSE to the truth but still taken out of context. The statement was made that the Bible advocates that one "hate" his family in "favor of God." The verse cited is Luke 14:26 - If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." Pretty straightforward, huh? What is Jesus saying? All Jesus is saying is that no one is to come between you and God. I don't have to literally hate my mother, my father, my wife, my children and my brothers and sisters. Quite the contrary, I would give my life for any one of them. But I will not forsake my Lord and Savior for them. He gave His life for me, why would I not dedicate my life to Him? (notice also Matthew 10:37-38 which expresses the true meaning of the word "hate" as it is used in this instance).

Finally, the statement was made that the Bible "endorses human sacrifice" and cited Exodus 22:29 - "Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me." Once more, let us examine the context. Let's do some checking on this: notice Exodus 13:2 - "Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine." The word "sanctify" comes from the word "kadash" meaning to "consecrate, separate, and set apart from all common or secular purposes to some religious use." Here, reference is made to the "Passover" of the Angel of Death over Egypt in which the firstborn of all the Israelites were spared; hence, the firstborn were to be consecrated to God. So the firstborn were consecrated to God to be His ministers, not sacrifice victims; and in lieu of the firstborn of men, the Levites were devoted to the temple services. We must also notice Exodus 13:12-13 which states, "That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD'S. And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem." So how were they redeemed? Notice Numbers 3:46-48: "And for those that are to be redeemed of the two hundred and threescore and thirteen of the firstborn of the children of Israel, which are more than the Levites; Thou shalt even take five shekels apiece by the poll, after the shekel of the sanctuary shalt thou take them: (the shekel is twenty gerahs:) And thou shalt give the money, wherewith the odd number of them is to be redeemed, unto Aaron and to his sons." These verses, when put together, put the first passage (which was first taken out of context) in context and show us that no human sacrifice was ever endorsed or advocated.

Let us each do all that we can to keep God's words in their context because to do otherwise leads to nothing but confusion.

Josh Romo

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LIGHTPOST CALENDAR

TODAY! SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- ♦ L2L BIBLE BOWL PRACTICE●7PM●MPB

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- ♦ L2L BIBLE BOWL PRACTICE●7PM●MPB

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

- ♦ ORNAMENT & COOKIE EXCHANGE –ALL GIRLS/LADIES' WELCOME!
●6:30PM●@the Powell's House ~ 897 MCCLENDON RD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

- ♦ TUESDAY LADIES' VISITATION●11:30AM●MPB●Bring a lunch!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

- ♦ TEENS' DEVO●5:30PM●MPB

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

- ♦ JR YOUTH/TEEN PARENT HOSTED DEVO & GIFT EXCHANGE @BILL & CAROLYN BRANNON'S HOUSE●5:30PM●232 SOUTHSORE DR ●Bring a wrapped/bagged gift to exchange!
- ♦ LADIES' DIGGING DEEP BIBLE STUDY●6PM●MPB●Bring Snacks!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

- ♦ YOUTH/TEEN GIFT BOX DELIVERIES TO SHUT-INS●Meet @9AM @MPB
- ♦ DECEMBER DINNER PARTY & GIFT EXCHANGE●5:30pm●MPB
●Catered Dinner - Each person please bring a wrapped/bagged gift to exchange (**Please RSVP in Foyer & Lightpost –this is needed in order to have correct head count for caterer-Thank you!)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

- ♦ TEEN'S 1ST PRINCIPLES●4:30PM●Room 118
- ♦ L2L BIBLE BOWL PRACTICE●7PM●MPB

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- ♦ LADIES' ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON & GIFT EXCHANGE –ALL LADIES WELCOME!●11:30AM●@Lynn Dishongh's house-102 E LAKE LAND PT●Please bring your favorite festive dishes &/or desserts & a bagged/wrapped gift to exchange

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

- ♦ SENIOR'S GAME DAY●1-5PM●MPB●Bring Snacks!

WEDNESDAY: BIBLE CLASSES @7:00 PM

ChatCYC
"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." — John 10:27
hearing God in a digital age...

Dallas
Jan 16-18
Sheraton DFW
4440 W John Carpenter Fwy
Irving, TX 75063



ChatCYC

Prayer Requests

MEMBERS

Phyllis Allen●Charlie Burns●Martha Dean
Bob Garner●Billie Gregory●Jean Kazimier
Bob Johnston●Walton/Elaine Kyle
Christie Landrum●Carla March
Ricky/Zandra Mendenhall●Karen Pate
Leslie Pate●Stuart Reeves●Pat Richardson
Freddie Sharpe●Neva Tharp●Debbie Ugbade
Diana Ward●Patricia Wireman
♦ Dale, Sherry –Having a lot of hip/leg pain, - total hip replacement 12/12 in L.R.
♦ Pannell, Glenda –@Baptist Hosp., L.R.
♦ Wireman, Patricia –Will have hip revision surgery

SHUT-INS

Craig Archer●Mike/Shirley Baka●LaVonne Depew
Ola Freibolt●Marcelle Green●Lorene Mount
Charles/Virginia Parker●David Pendleberry
Wes Poole●Pat Richens●Judy Walters
Linda Woeppel
♦ Cook, Henry-Home now, doing well

ALL MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS

* Schuler, Tommy (Army) Fort Johnson, LA
* Schuler, Tracy (Navy) Meridian, MS
* Spellings, Randy (Army Nat'l Guard)
Jackson, TN
* Tombs, Levi (AF) Home now
* Vincent, Tyler (VF) Garland County
* Wethington, "A.J" Anthony (AF)
Whitman AFB, MO
* Wells, Andrew & Madison-GCPD/HSPD

MISSIONS (Matthew 28:18-20)

❖Kakinada, India-Ronnie Gootam
❖Nigeria -Chad Wagner
❖Pacific Islands -Randy English

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Marty Ault●Sheila Bird●Kim Butler
Breanna Dishongh●Jenna Duvall●Paula Crippen
Cindy Cunningham●Lim Elek●Kristi Ferguson
Austen Johnson●Suzie King●Becky McCombs
Matthew Qualls●Rhonda Rivers●Don Rutherford
John Smith●Judy Straut●Bob Troutman
Harrel Walters●Kay Ward
♦ Dugan, Derek & Regina (Rutherford's former neighbors) Regina has been transferred to rehab facility in Dardanelle
♦ Haught, Jim (Vicki Cole's BIL) Failing health in St. Bernard's Hospital, Jonesboro, AR
♦ Janice, Jeff (Craig Dale's brother) Undergoing tests for lymph nodes
♦ Miller, Gloria(Denise Wiemer's mom)Heart racing episodes –undergoing tests

BATTLING CANCER

Jennifer Baker●JL Bice●Jim Blagg●Nona Barton
Sherry Daniel●Denise Drennan●Ella Fisher
Sheree Gallagher●Patti Genow●Jerry Harris
Jack Haywood●Terry Horne●Kirsten James
Alvena Jones●Sandy Land●Brenda Lavender
Daryl Macon●Phyllis Madlen●Eugene Pipkins
Delorious Tolleson●Bettie Lou White

- ♦ Beach, June - 11/18 reconstructive surgery went well
- ♦ Frenzel, Debbie –@CHI St. Vincent's in L.R. stomach bleed due to cancerous tumors on her stomach & pancreas. In CCU#4 & is okay w/visits & phone calls
- ♦ Janus, Jeff(Craig Dale's brother) Oncologist in San Diego recommending IV immunotherapy for a few wks & will have PET scan
- ♦ Word, Kenny –Not doing well, (Please see meal train on Lightpost)

●●●**ELDERS:** Bill Brannon; Bob Cole; Ed Courtney; Alan Dishongh; Danny Griffith; Donnie Pogue, Jr; Tim Togami; Festus Ugbade●●●**DEACONS:** Jonathan Bonde; Lessel Collier; Drew Hudgens; Derek Landrum; Chris Nickolson; Rick Palmer; Tom Shelton●●●