

Book, Chapter and Verses

By: Dan Jenkins

The Bible we read looks far different from those who first read it. It is not that parts of it have been lost or words have been changed. Jesus promised that His words (notice that He uses the plural) would not pass away as long as the world remained (**Matt. 24:35**). The major difference is that our Bible is divided into chapters and verses, but it was not written in that form.

Chapter divisions were first made by Stephen Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1227. The divisions of these chapters into verses came later when a rabbi, Mordecai Nathan, divided the Old Testament into verses in 1448. The New Testament was divided by a printer named Robert Estienne (also known as Stephanus) in 1551.

This division into chapters is not true of the entire Bible, for God divided the Psalms as they were written. These psalms, most written by David, were like poems and songs for the Jewish nation. In the synagogue in Antioch, Paul quotes from the book of Psalms and then gives book and chapter location for his quotation (**Acts 13:33**). He then quotes from another psalm but does not give which one (**Acts 13:35**). There was no need for any man to divide these psalms into chapters, for they already had book and chapters (like song numbers).

The average number of verses in each chapter in the Bible is 26 and each psalm averages about 16 verses. Keep this concept in mind as you read the psalms. The shortest psalm contains two

verses (Psalm 117) while the longest one has 176 verses (Psalm 119). Remember it was God who made this division of the psalms.

The content of the message determined how long each of them would be. A question to consider is why would God write such a long psalm? What topic would be so important that it demanded so many verses? Think about this question and it might change how you view the longest chapter in the Bible.

Look at the content of this chapter. Every single verse, except one, refers to the Bible using various words. The psalmist describes the Bible as testimony 23 times; precepts 21 times; commandments 22 times; sayings or utterances 19 times; way 13 times; law 25 times; judgments or ordinances 23 times; righteousness or right 15 times; statutes or decrees 22 times; and word or words 24 times. Every time, each of these words is followed with words to extol them.

I challenge you to read this psalm slowly to sense its contents. I promise you that your appreciation for the nature of the Bible will be greatly enhanced. Slowly read it again and again to see it even more. God chose each word in it!

As Clear As Leaves on a Tree

By: Selected

I remember as a kid walking out of the eye doctor's office with my first pair of glasses. The clarity of what I saw that day is still vivid in my memory. I remember saying, "Look! The trees have leaves!" Of course, as a kid, I knew that trees have leaves, but it had been years since I had been able to discern individual leaves on a tree from a distance. I had become so accustomed to a vision that was not clear at all that I did not even realize what I was missing.

While the terminology has been different, I have heard individuals coming out of denominationalism say something very similar to the above. The clarity of the simple truth of the gospel was now so vivid to them that new converts to Christ have said things like, "I never realized God's truth was so clear." "I had been in denominationalism so long that I had grown completely accustomed to hearing the doctrines of men, without even knowing it. I had no idea what I was missing!" Consider some things the Bible makes so clear.

The clarity of what the Bible says about the essentiality of baptism is so vivid. The Bible says that one must be baptized in order to be saved (**Mark 16:16**), obtain the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**), have sins washed away (**Acts 22:16**), and enter into Christ (**Gal. 3:27**; **Rom. 6:3**) and His kingdom (**John 3:5**; **1 Cor. 12:13**). Denominational doctrines blur this truth, but God makes it so very clear (like leaves on a tree).

The clarity of what the Bible says about the ineffectiveness of faith alone to save is so vivid. The Bible says that "faith without works

is dead," for "a man is justified by works, and not by faith only" (**Jas. 2:14-26**). A saving faith is an obedient faith (**Rom. 1:5**; **16:26**; **John 3:36**; **Heb. 3:18-19**). Denominational doctrines blur this truth, but God makes it so very clear (like leaves on a tree).

The clarity of what the Bible says about the singularity of the church is so vivid. The Bible says that Jesus built His [one] church (**Matt. 16:18**), purchased His [one] church (**Acts 20:28**) and is the [one] head of His [one] church (**Eph. 5:23**). The Bible says that there is "one" church (**Eph. 4:4**; **1:22-23**) and that it teaches the "one faith" (**Eph. 4:4-6**; **1 Cor. 1:10-13**; **1 Pet. 4:11**). Denominational doctrines blur this truth, but God makes it so very clear (like leaves on a tree).

The list of examples could go on and on. The very existence of denominations makes the truth of God very blurry to those who are caught up in their manmade doctrines. God's plan of salvation is crystal clear. God's pattern for worship is crystal clear. God's organization for His church is crystal clear. There are not multiple ways to do any of these things. God's one way is clear when you put on His glasses to see it His way.



Upcoming Events

Summer Series Wednesdays: Adults will be in the main auditorium for the theme “It’s Who You Know” and the youth will be in the fellowship hall learning Bible stories about God’s animals.

Sun. August 3: Monthly potluck luncheon. Bring a dish/dessert to share. We will also have our afternoon service at 12:45pm.

Sun. Aug. 10: Monthly youth devotional.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Ashley Dolan’s father who passed away last week.

Ron White’s sister and aunt who passed away last week.

Rita Rosenbrock who went to the hospital last week.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

EVANGELISM TRAINING

Sundays at 4 PM at the church building throughout August*

August 3 – Pew Greeter Training *(12:15 PM)

August 10 – Bible Study Leader Training, part 1

August 17 – Bible Study Leader Training, part 2

August 24 – Compassion Card Follow-up Training

August 31 – Mentoring New Converts Training



Service Roster

Week of July 27, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Barry Lehtinen
Song Leader.....Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer.....Jake Jacobs
Closing Prayer.....Mike Atkinson

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread.....Bryant Siegel
Cup.....Lupe Escojido
Offering.....James Cammock
Assist.....Jack Jobes
Assist.....Caleb Lehtinen
Assist.....Desmon Flonnory

Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer.....Steve Randle
Closing Prayer.....Desmon Flonnory

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....James Cammock/
Lupe Escojido

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class.....James Cammock
Song Leader.....Cody McCoy
Devotional.....James Cammock

Other

Prepare Communion for July.....McCoys

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Bryce Dolan.....July 31
Linda Flonnory Bell.....Aug. 1
Ken Dorries.....Aug. 2
Mark FitzSimmons.....Aug.2

Anniversaries

Tam & Pam Archer.....July 28

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none be-
sides You, nor is there any rock like our God.
1 Samuel 2:2 NKJV

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 July 20, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....69
A.M. Worship.....88
P.M. Worship.....66
Wednesday Worship.....52

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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