

The Three Hardest English Words

By: Dan Jenkins

There are some really long words in our language. I remember years ago when I first heard what was at that time the longest one. It was antidisestablishmentarianism. I learned it when watching the national spelling bee. It took me a while to learn it, but I mastered how to say it.

“Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious” is not recognized as a word, but a nonsense word from Mary Poppins. It is one that, while not easily pronounced, can be sung by those who saw the movie. If you have ever wondered, the longest word in the dictionary is “pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis” — a medical term describing lung infection caused by inhaling minute particles of dust.

As difficult as these words are to say, they are not the hardest to say as a three-word phrase. The phrase has only eleven letters in it, but there is something about these three words that makes them so difficult to say. In fact, these words were unspoken for the first 2,500 years men were on this earth. Every person could have said them, but no one ever did. What are these three words?

The three English words hardest to say are, “I have sinned.” Who was the first person to use these words in the Bible? It was not Adam or Eve in the garden, for instead of saying what was true, they blamed the serpent or the woman whom God had made. For some strange reason, these three words are hard to understand. They were not said

by the millions of people who perished in the flood. They were not said at the Tower of Babel. They were not said by Abraham when confronted in the lie he told about Sarah. They were not said by Jacob who stole the blessing and the birthright from Esau. They were not said by Joseph’s brothers. Such an important phrase, but so hard to say!

The first time this phrase is found in the Bible was when Pharaoh said these words twice to get plagues removed from Egypt. How genuinely were they spoken? Evidently not at all, for when the plagues were removed he kept on sinning! Even in our day, sometimes men call upon God with these words but actions show they were not sincere.

They were spoken by Balaam who beat his donkey and talked to him. The false prophet then saw the angel and said these words but likely he was talking about doing wrong to the donkey. He said the words but kept on going on his journey to curse Israel.

The phrase is found less than 20 times in the Bible, and in a historical setting, David and the prodigal son use them nearly half of the time. Now think about yourself. You have wronged God and others, but how often do we use them?

The Truth About Jesus (Part 1 of 7): The Introduction

By: Selected

There are 31,102 verses in the Bible. That's a lot! If you memorized one verse per day, you could have the whole Bible memorized in just over 85 years. Of course, every verse in the Bible ultimately is about Jesus Christ—Someone is coming (summary of the Old Testament books), Someone is here (summary of Matthew through John), Someone is coming again (summary of Acts through Revelation). But, if you could memorize one verse that would give you an overview of the life, purpose, greatness and truth of that Someone, start with 1 Timothy 3:16.

You will probably notice in your Bible that most of the verse is set apart in its formatting, similar to the way that the book of Psalms or other poetic sections in your Bible might appear. In doing so, the translators help us to see six pivotal truths about Jesus Christ that are integral to the story of the Bible. But, before Paul gets to those six transforming truths, he introduces them with these words: “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness.” What is he telling us?

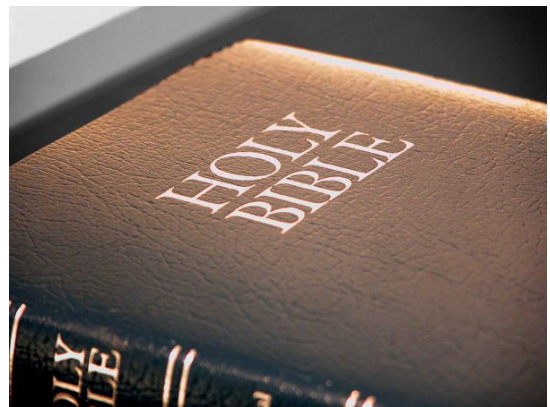
Paul emphasizes truth's CERTAINTY: “without controversy.” The Greek word literally means, “that which one confesses,” and it is defined as “most certain, uncontestable, undeniable, beyond dispute, without doubt.” Think about God using that word to describe the truth of Jesus Christ—it is without controversy and beyond dispute. Only a foolish mortal would deny or argue against the undeniable!

Paul emphasizes truth's SUPREMACY: “great

is.” The truth of Jesus Christ and God's plan to save mankind is of surpassing importance. Nothing compares. It is likened to oxygen—we cannot survive without it. There is not (and never will be) anything greater or more important in your life.

Paul emphasizes truth's CLARITY: “the mystery.” The word does not mean mysterious or incapable of being understood. Quite the opposite. That which (i.e., “the mystery of Christ,” Eph. 3:4) “was not made known” in “other ages...has now been revealed” (3:5). God's plan for salvation through His Son has been clearly revealed in the gospel.

Paul emphasizes truth's RELEVANCY: “of godliness.” On the one hand, “godliness” stands for the entire Christian system, which has been revealed. On the other hand, the truth of Jesus Christ leads one to a life of “godliness,” referring to one's devotion and conformity to God's will, as one seeks to please God in all things.



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.

Sat. Sept. 27: Save the date for a Men’s Lunch here at the building. More details to come.

Area events:

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

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Joyce Faires’ grandson Davey broke his wrist.

Amy Sylva’s dad, Ruben. His health is declining.

Pam Stryker will be having eye surgery on Aug. 27th in Houston.

Ferman Rosales’ father, Ferman Sr. was taken to the hospital for dizziness and leg numbness.

Members

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

Service Roster

Week of August 17, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Will Burleson
Song Leader Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer..... Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Benny Horton
Cup.....Mike Atkinson
Offering..... Jake Jacobs
Assist.....Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons
Closing Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Bryce Dolan/
Benny Horton

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassDoug Jobs
Song LeaderCody McCoy
Devotional Doug Jobs

Other

Prepare Communion for Aug.....Rosales

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Raider Stryker.....Aug. 19
Pam Archer.....Aug. 20
Rita Rosenbrock.....Aug. 21
LC Islas.....Aug. 22
Tom Cullen.....Aug. 22

Anniversaries

Doug & Kasi Jobs.....Aug. 22
Willie & Helen Cannady.....Aug. 22

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

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



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

Let your light so shine before men, that they may
see your good works and glorify your Father in
heaven.
Matthew 5:16

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 August 10, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....68
A.M. Worship.....79
P.M. Worship.....52
Wednesday Worship.....54

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

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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