



Your Attitude and Assumptions

When we are talking about understanding the bible we need to understand that our character is just as important as our method. Last month this article addressed the goal of bible study, to discern the will of God by understanding what the author's intended meaning was for this inspired text. To do that you have a method of reading. Some methods are better than others. Some people just open their bibles to a random page and read a random verse. This is not a great method for understanding the bible, but it is a method. The method, or technique we use is important, it's very important, but so is our character. Who you are is going to be as big a part of whether or not this goes well as how good your technique is. Technique is important, but humility is paramount.

When we're talking about humility as it relates to how we read the bible it means that we are ready and willing to obey. The key character ingredient to reading the bible well is a readiness to obey. Psalm 119:60 says, "I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands." Psalm 25:9, "He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way." God is not interested in banging his head on the brick wall that is your hardened heart. If you don't plan on heeding, don't plan on hearing. So as we open up our bibles the general principle that we need to keep in mind is, "Where am I? Am I ready to hear from God?" So I'd like to give us two practical steps to take in evaluating our heart as we begin to study God's word.

1. Pray

We are not perfect people. We are not perfectly humble or willing to obey, but we can at least say that we want to be. So we need to pray that God would help us to be this type of person to which He can and will speak. The type of person that he will trust with his truth. 1 Corinthians 2:14 says, "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned." So we need to pray that God would help us become spiritually ready to hear what he would have us know. The more often that we pray this prayer the better we'll become at this. We will "grow up" spiritually and be ready for the solid food or the word rather than the simple spiritual milk.

2. Check our Assumptions at the Door

No one comes to Scripture without assumptions. We all have things that we instinctively think about how life works or even what certain words mean. We all have assumptions and they can either help or hinder faithful interpretation. Who our dad was, whether a good father or a bad one will cause us to have different reactions when scripture calls God our father. We all have assumptions. So what should we do with our assumptions?

First, we need to recognize them. If we are unaware of our particular biases, we won't realize that they are affecting how we are understanding the text and they can harm our interpretation. At least recognize your particular bent. Second evaluate your assumption. Think through how your assumptions hold up against the bible. Just because you assume something doesn't mean it's wrong, it just means it's ungrounded. You need to evaluate whether or not your particular assumptions are correct or not. Which leads to the third thing to do with your assumptions and that is to submit them to the scriptures. If we don't allow the bible to confirm or correct our assumptions our assumptions will confirm or correct the bible.

Your technique of bible study is important, but humility is paramount!

**In His Service,
Ben**

August 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM CLASSES 6:30PM	4 WORSHIP MEETING 6:30PM	5	6
7 ADMIN MTG FOLLOWING SERVICE SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	8	9 SERVICE & ACTION MEEING 1:00 PM	10 PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM CLASSES 6:30PM	11 ELDERS 6:00PM DEACONS 6:30PM BOARD 7:00PM	12	13
14 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	15	16	17 PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM CLASSES 6:30PM	18	19	20 CHURCH WORK DAY 8:00 AM
21 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	22	23	24 PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM CLASSES 6:30PM	25	26	27
28 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	29	30	31 PRAYER HOUR 5:30 PM CLASSES 6:30PM			
<p>We're Going Back To School</p> 						

Serving In August

August 07

Meditation: Joe Price
Servers: Brenda Gibson, *Iris Felix
 John Signorelli, Rebecca Cullen
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Nursery: Jessica Buxton, Sarah Skiles
Lord's Supper Prep: Mark & Jackie Morey
AV Booth: Joe Price/Sound, ?/PP
Children's Church: Roma Weinkauff

August 14

Meditation: Rick Weinkauff
Servers: Brenda Risner, Ruth Carson
 Tara Coffman, *Wanda Jones
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Nursery: Lindsie Sirmons, Meshell Pruitt
Lord's Supper Prep: Mark & Jackie Morey
AV Booth: Joe Price/Sound, ?/PP
Children's Church: Sarah Skiles

August 21

Meditation: Doug Dalton
Servers: Brenda Gibson, Iris Felix
 *John Signorelli, Rebecca Cullen
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Nursery: Christina Barnes, Sheena Zieman
Lord's Supper Prep: Mark & Jackie Morey
AV Booth: Joe Price/Sound, ?/PP
Children's Church: Nicole Stanfill

August 28

Meditation: Jim Jones
Servers: Brenda Risner, Ruth Carson
 Tara Coffman, *Wanda Jones
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Nursery: Kristen Partin, Rebecca Cullen
Lord's Supper Prep: Mark & Jackie Morey
AV Booth: Joe Price/Sound, ?/PP
Children's Church: Christina Barnes



In Our Prayers

Bettie Peters - cracked vertebrae
 Kay Bolden - cancer
 Bud Thompson - brain tumor/rehab
 Glenda Brisco's brother - stroke
 Marlene Johnson - degenerative nerve disease
 Donna Peters - Health
 Heidi Mund
 Laurie Cullen -salvation/early onset Alzheimer's
 Bob Coulter - Parkinson's
 Shaun Cecil
 Diana Williamson - cancer
 Larry Allen - heart
 Reba Stephens - health
 Charlotte McPherson
 Marcia Sharma - stomach cancer
 Nita Walker - health
 Andrea Matthews - heart problems
 Tammie Crowder - infection
 Sandy Farris - cancer
 Herb Lacey - liver cancer
 Linda Crandal - leukemia
 Billie Vaughn - Jerry's cousin

Periodically the Prayer List will be updated. If we remove someone that you still want on the list, please let us know and we will be glad to put them back on.

If you have a prayer need or know of any changes, please contact the church office.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

08/02 Riley Crawford
 08/03 Dan White
 08/14 Sherri Dirickson
 08/17 Gene & Dodie Dreschler
 08/20 Doug & Jackie Garland
 08/22 Jackie Morey
 08/22 Jerry & Brenda Gibson
 08/28 Phil & Ruth Carson
 08/30 Ben Partin

Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:30 am
 Worship Service 10:30 am

Wednesday Night

Prayer Hour 5:30 pm
 Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

Secretary's Report

July 2016

Average Attendance	50
Average Visitors	5
Total Average Attendance	56
Total Offerings	\$8,947.00

Your Elders

Phil Carson, Randall Coffman, Doug Dalton,
 Gene Drechsler, Jerry Gibson, Jim Jones

Your Deacons

Crystal Crawford, Rebecca Cullen, Brenda Gibson
 Wanda Jones, Joe Price, Rick Weinkauff, Dan White



Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.

JOIN US FOR PRAYER WEDNESDAY - 5:30 PM

Far away in the tropical waters of the Caribbean, two prawns were swimming around in the sea – one called Justin and the other called Christian.

The prawns were constantly being harassed and threatened by sharks that inhabited the area. Finally one day Justin said to Christian, “I’m fed up with being a prawn, I wish I was a shark, then I wouldn’t have any worries about being eaten.”

A large mysterious cod appeared and said, “Your wish is granted” and lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark. Horrified, Christian immediately swam away, afraid of being eaten by his old mate.

Time passed (as it invariably does) and Justin found life as a shark boring and lonely. All his old mates simply swam away whenever he came close to them.

Justin didn’t realize that his new menacing appearance was the cause of his sad plight. While swimming alone one day he saw the mysterious cod again and he thought perhaps the mysterious fish could change him back into a prawn.

He approached the cod and begged to be changed back, and, lo and behold, he found himself turned back into a prawn.

With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes Justin swam back to his friends and greeted them.

Looking around the gathering at the reef he realized he couldn’t see his old pal.

“Where’s Christian?” he asked. “He’s at home, still distraught that his best friend changed sides to the enemy & became a shark”, came the reply.

Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, he set off to Christian’s abode. As he opened the coral gate memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted, “It’s me, Justin, your old friend, come out and see me again.”

Christian replied, “No way man, you’ll eat me. You’re now a shark, the enemy, and I’ll not be tricked into being your dinner.”

Justin cried back “No, I’m not. That was the old me. I’ve changed.....

“I’ve found Cod. I’m a Prawn again Christian”

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 20TH
8:00 AM
BRING WORK GLOVES**

