

The Crosswalk

First Christian Church
2501 N Park Lane
Altus, OK 73521



APRIL
2016



The following is an excerpt from one of the articles found in the ESV Study Bible produced by Crossway Publishing. This is an excellent summation of the Christian's approach to scripture. For the purposes of our newsletter I have broken up this article into three parts. Last month we looked at general revelation, special revelation, inspiration, and inerrancy of scripture. This month we'll look into the clarity and the sufficiency of scripture. Finally, in May we'll finish the article by looking into Jesus' view of Scripture.

The Clarity of Scripture

The Bible itself acknowledges that some passages of Scripture are "hard to understand" ([2 Pet. 3:16](#), referring to some aspects of Paul's letters). In general, however, with the illumination of the Spirit ([2 Tim. 2:7](#)), the teaching of the Bible is clear to all who seek understanding with the goal of knowing and obeying God. OT believers were instructed to teach God's commands continually to their children with the expectation that they would understand it: "These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" ([Deut. 6:6-7](#)). God's Word is said to "make wise the simple" ([Ps. 19:7; 119:30](#)). Jesus based his teaching squarely on the OT Scriptures: he assumed its teaching was clear and would often ask, "Have you not read ... ?" (cf. [Matt. 12:3, 5; 19:14; 21:42; 22:31](#)).

Because of the basic clarity of the Bible, when Christians disagree over the meaning of a passage they can assume that the problem is not with the Bible but rather with themselves as interpreters. Misunderstandings may be due to various factors such as human sin, ignorance of enough of the relevant data, faulty assumptions, or perhaps trying to reach a definite conclusion about a topic where the Bible has not given enough information to decide the question. Yet the emphasis of the Bible is not on difficulties in understanding but on the fact that ordinary believers are capable of comprehending Scripture for themselves. In addition, God provides teachers of his Word to further help his people's understanding ([1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11](#)). Believers have the responsibility to read, interpret, and understand the Bible because it is basically clear. This was an assumption of the Protestant Reformers who sought to translate the Bible into the language of the common people. They believed that all true Christians are priests who are able to know God for themselves through his Word and to help others do the same.


The Sufficiency of Scripture

Scripture provides all the words from God that we need in order to know God truly and personally, and everything we need him to tell us in order for us to live an abundant, godly life ([Ps. 19:7-9; 2 Tim. 3:15](#)). God has given his people a sufficient revelation of himself so that they are able to know, trust, and obey him. "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" ([2 Tim. 3:16-17](#)). God commands that nothing be added or taken away from the Bible, which indicates that it has always been exactly what he has wanted at each stage in its development throughout the history of salvation. "You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you" ([Deut. 4:2](#); cf. [Deut. 12:32; Prov. 30:5-6](#)). The powerful admonition against tampering that stands at the conclusion of the entire Bible ([Rev. 22:18-19](#)) applies primarily, of course, to the book of Revelation, but in a secondary sense what it says may be applied to the Bible as a whole: "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book" ([Rev. 22:18-19](#)).

Believers should find freedom and encouragement in the knowledge that God has provided all of the absolutely authoritative instruction that they need in order to know him and live as he intends. God's people should never fear that he has withheld something they might need him to say in order for them to know how to please him, or that he will have to somehow supplement his Word with new instructions for some new situation that arises in the modern age. (The NT allows for the activity of the Holy Spirit in leading and guiding individuals, as in [Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:16, 18, 25](#); but this guidance is always in line with Scripture, never in opposition to scriptural commands.) Therefore believers should be satisfied with what Scripture teaches and what it leaves unsaid. "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" ([Deut. 29:29](#)).

In His Service,
Ben

April 2016

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--|--|-----|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Grate Altus Spelling Bee 9:00AM |
| 3 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM | 4 | 5 VBS MEETING 6PM | 6 DINNER 6:00PM CLASSES 7:00PM | 7 WORSHIP MEETING 6:30PM | 8 | 9 |
| 10 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM | 11 | 12 | 13 LBS 9:30 DINNER 6:00PM CLASSES 7:00PM | 14 ELDERS 6:00PM DEACONS 6:30PM BOARD 7:00PM | 15 | 16 |
| 17 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM | 18 EDUCATION MEETING 6:00PM | 19 | 20 LBS 9:30 DINNER 6:00PM CLASSES 7:00PM | 21 ROLLER SKATING PARTY 5:30- 8:30 | 22 | 23 SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING 10:00-NOON |
| 24 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM | 25 | 26 | 27 LBS 9:30 DINNER 6:00PM CLASSES 7:00PM | 28 | 29 | 30 |
|  | | | | | | |
| LBS-LADIES BIBLE STUDY; SS-SUNDAY SCHOOL; WS-WORSHIP SERVICE | | | | | | |

Serving In April

April 03

Meditation: Randall Coffman
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: Jim & Wanda Jones
AV Booth: Robert Crawford/PP & Sound
Children's Church: Sherri Dirickson/Elisabeth White

April 10

Meditation: Jim Jones
Servers: Dan White, Ruth Carson
 Tara Coffman, *Wanda Jones
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Nursery: Lindsie Sirmons, Meshell Pruitt
Lord's Supper Prep: Jim & Wanda Jones
AV Booth: Robert Crawford/PP & Sound
Children's Church: Rick & Roma Weinkauf

April 17

Meditation: Rick Weinkauf
Servers: Brenda Gibson, Iris Felix
 *John Signorelli, Rebecca Cullen
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Nursery: Christina Barnes, Sheena Ziemann
Lord's Supper Prep: Jim & Wanda Jones
AV Booth: Robert Crawford/PP & Sound
Children's Church: Richard & Christina Barnes

April 24

Meditation: Lloyd Colston
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: Jim & Wanda Jones
AV Booth: Robert Crawford/PP & Sound
Children's Church: ?
 *Offering Prayer

In Our Prayers

Laurie Cullen -salvation/early onset Alzheimer's
 Bob Coulter - Parkinson's
 Cindy Ashwood
 Shaun Cecil
 Diana Williamson - cancer
 Larry Allen - heart
 Reba Stephens - health
 Charlotte McPherson
 Marcia Sharma - stomach cancer
 Nita Walker - health
 Andrea Matthews - heart problems
 Robert Ramer -experimental therapy
 Tammie Crowder - infection
 Sandy Farris - cancer
 Arnold Goucher - 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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

04/01 Bob Clark
 04/03 Dodie Dreschler
 04/07 John Signorelli
 04/12 Kelli McGuire
 04/15 Judy Colston
 04/19 Ben & Kristen Partin
 04/21 Rebecca Cullen
 04/22 Brenda Gibson
 04/25 JR Ziemann
 04/26 Lloyd Colston

Sunday Services

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

Wednesday Night

Dinner 6:00 pm
 Classes for all ages 7:00 pm

Secretary's Report

March 2016

Average Attendance 73.25
 Average Visitors 9
 Total Average Attendance 82.25
 Total Offerings \$8,300.00

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 Weinkauf, Daniel White

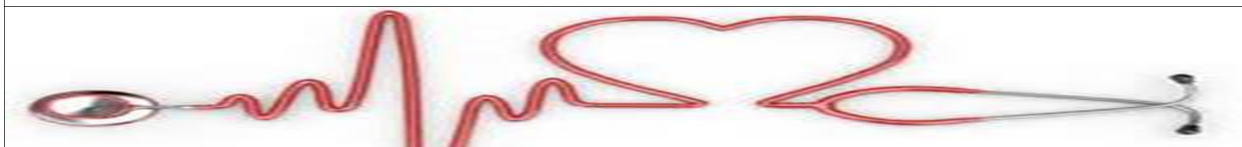


**ON THE BENCH IN THE FOYER ARE COLORING BOOKS AND
CRAYONS FOR YOUR CHILD TO USE AND ENJOY DURING THE
WORSHIP SERVICE.**

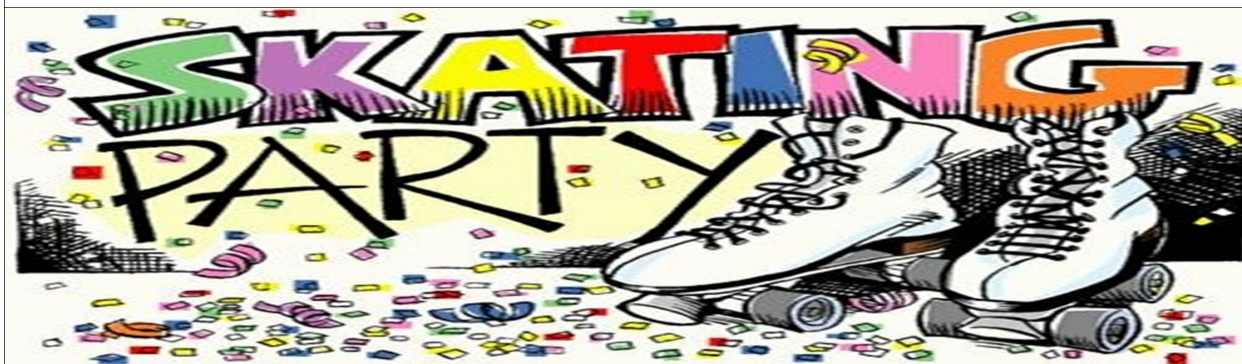
**PLEASE RETURN BOOKS AND CRAYONS TO THE BASKET
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.**

Church Safety and Security efforts:

While we are still exploring options for the best ways to proceed with safety and security issues, we have put into place the things that we believe can most readily be done. The doors to the building will be locked after time for church to begin. The Greeter will lock the doors and also watch for anyone coming in late to let them in. We believe that he can be a pair of eyes that looks for anything suspicious that might be arriving after church begins. We will be looking into the possibility of other measures to provide some protection for our worshippers.



We have the generous donation of a defibrillator that we want to begin training people to use. But, we also want to be able to provide stopgap emergency medical help when needed, so we are looking into what kinds of training may be needed. We need to know how many of our number might be interested in receiving this training so there will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Please sign up if interested. We will try to get some training going as soon as it can be arranged.



THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST - 5:30 TO 8:30