

WITNESSING

“Witnessing for Christ” is an expression heard in the religious world in an erroneous way. Nobody can “witness for Christ” today in the Biblical sense of the phrase. Witnessing requires giving testimony of that which has been seen. In Scripture the terms refer to eye-witness accounts or revelation by inspired men. It means more than simply tell what one knows. The apostles and some others were witnesses, but are not, nor can we be. We should learn to use the phrase so that we will “speak as the oracles of God.” (First Peter 4:11).

What difference does it make? First, it may reflect that you do not understand what the Bible teaches about who is and who is not a witness. Second, inasmuch as some who say they are “witnessing for Christ” believe they are directly guided by the Holy Spirit, do not become offended if someone thinks you believe that way also. This phrase is heard among brethren who mean nothing more than preaching and teaching the Word, but their terminology is faulty and sounds more like a denominational imitation than a Biblical presentation. “Sound words” (Second Timothy 1:13) are in order. – Jim Boyd

Elders

James Pigg 270-293-2319

- Mike Ernstberger 270-293-7027

Deacons

Bobby Hall

Jesse Vincent

Preacher

Jonnie Hutchison

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS 10:00 AM

“Study of Mark”

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:50 AM

“Greater Love” John 15:13

SUNDAY WORSHIP 6:00 PM

“How Christians Should Talk”

Wednesday 7:00 PM

**“Why Bad Things Happen
to Good People”**

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!

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THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAMER

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UNDERSTANDING GOD’S WORD *By Ben Vick*

Jesus said in John 7:17, “*If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*” The first “will” in this verse conveys the idea of desire: thus, Jesus is affirming if a man desires or wills to do God’s will, then he will know what God’s will is.

There are many today who say that the Bible cannot be understood. They point to the great variety of conflicting ideas people have about certain Bible subjects to try to prove their point. Though, many very educated people differ in their views of certain scriptures, Jesus’ words still ring true. A person who has a desire and determination to do what is right will be able to know what is right. The problem of conflict is not with the Bible, but with the hearts of those who interpret the Bible.

In Jesus’ explanation of the parable of the Sower, He describes the good ground in Luke 8:15: “*But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.*” Jesus points out those who hear God’s word and keep it have honest and good hearts. Honesty is essential for arriving at the true meaning of God’s word. Sadly, it is sometimes the case that people dismiss the Bible as confusing because they do not want to do what it says. They are looking in the Bible for something that will justify how they live rather than looking for how they should live. Their motives are not pure and honest; therefore, they do not properly interpret God’s word. R. L. Whiteside wrote on page 72 of his

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain Members: Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder (Spring Creek), Hayes Grady, Marie and Roy Wyatt, Dave and Ann Thompson, Joan Lathrop, and Wanda Barrett. Don Spiceland was taken to Nashville this past Wednesday with elevated liver enzymes. As of this writing, Don was undergoing tests to determine his condition.

Family and Friends: Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Kim Burrows, Nat Evans, Lucetria Hutchison, Ted Clark, Larry and Rose Wyatt, Tonya Morris, Teri Mercer, Patrice Wyatt, Jackie Hernon, Janice Canter, Peyton Mays and Patricia Dowdy.

PANTRY ITEMS August 2025: 3-Peanut Butter; 10-Jelly; 17-Corn; 24-Diced Tomatoes; 31-Pork-n-Beans.

August 2025 ANNIVERSERIES: 13-Gail & Jonnie **BIRTHDAYS:** 4-Teresa Enoch; 10-Brint Morris; 21-Jackie Spiceland.

UPCOMING EVENTS: *Fall Gospel Meeting* with Garlan Robinson September 14-18, 2025: *School of Biblical Studies* starts September 22nd with John & Eli Sales serving as our instructors. More details to follow.

THOSE TO SERVE AUGUST 2025

Announcements: Chad

Preside at Lord's Table AM: Roy & Bobby

Preside at Lord's Table PM: 3-Roy; 10-Bobby; 17-Roy; 24-Bobby; 31-Roy

Opening Prayer AM: 3-James; 10-Jonnie; 17; Jimmy; 24-Mike; 31-James

Closing Prayer AM: 3-Perry; 10-Dave; 17-Jesse; 24-Russell; 31-Chad

Lead Singing: AM-Perry; PM-Chad; Wed-Mike

Count Contribution: Roy and Bobby

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commentary on Romans, "When a person studies the Scriptures for any other purpose than to know God and to be able to do his will, there is no telling what sort of absurd conclusions he may arrive at."

You can understand the Bible. Paul expected those in Ephesus to whom he wrote to be able to understand, "*How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)*" (Eph. 3:3-4). The Bible is revelation from God to us; the very definition of the word revelation means that understanding is being imparted. God in His power and understanding can produce a book that the humans he created can understand. He has and it can be understood today even centuries later.

Daniel could read the book of Jeremiah years after it was written and understand that the captivity would last 70 years (Dan. 9:2). Centuries after God gave the law through Moses, Ezra could seek out its meaning, practice it in his life, and impart his understanding to oth-

ers (Ezra 7:10). Nehemiah 8:2 describes the work of Ezra: "*So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month.*" Jesus expected men in the first century to understand what Daniel had to say concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, "*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*" (Matt. 24:15). God expects us to read and understand His will, "*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is*" (Eph. 5:17).

[-Understanding God's Word -
Shelbyville Road church of Christ](#)

