



West Side Window

Volume 29, Issue 51

December 19, 2021



"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in Him produces much fruit because you can do nothing without Me...My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples." John 15: 5, 8

How to See Eye to Eye Religiously?

Why do some people not see religious things the way we see them? Why is there so much difference between what we teach and what the denominations profess? Do we not all have the same Bible? Are we not all trying to serve the same God? Do we not all believe in the same Savior? These are perplexing questions, and they are not easily answered to everyone's satisfaction. Basically, our understanding of the Scriptures differs from the majority of the religious world because we operate on a different principle of interpretation. To most religious people "truth" is relative, adjusting freely to different times and circumstances. For us, however, truth is truth. It is unalterable, unchangeable, and everlasting. But did "we" just arbitrarily decide this would be our regard for truth? Not at all. God's own word boldly claims "thy word is truth" (John 17:17) and "the word of the Lord is right; and all His works are done in truth." (Psalm 33:4) While there are scoffers at the idea of absolute truth, we accept Bible teaching that such does exist, and we are determined to know it. Pilate's piercing question, "What is truth?" (John 18:38) was prompted by these words from Jesus: "I have come into the world that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." This then, is the basis upon which we may come to see religious matters alike. There must be a commitment to the same standard of truth. No one would ever attempt to use differing standards of measurement if building a house, marking off a football field, or sewing a garment. This would guarantee error and disaster. Twelve inches must equal one foot on all our rulers if we desire uniformity. There must be a healthy regard and respect for the Bible on the part of every religious person in order for understanding to occur. Without this common devotion to God's word, all efforts to see things the same will fail. In order to come to agreement on matters essential to salvation, we must begin where we agree. From this point we must study the Scriptures, resolving differences as we go along. Major problems of difference are solved in small steps, and then we can be united in Christ. But we will never see things the same if we cannot agree on the existence, necessity, and location of the truth. No Bible discussion is profitable unless every participant is a truth seeker. If everyone concerned really wants the truth, then coming to an agreement and an understanding of truth will be achievable. Believe it or not, it is possible to discuss religious differences without becoming rude or creating hurt feelings. People who love the truth are not concerned with who is right, but with what is right. Every truth seeker is willing to surrender any position if it is false. There is no other honorable course for an honest man. An honest man will seek the truth, and when he finds it he will believe it. "Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding." (Proverbs 23:23). - by Mark W.

Services

Sunday Morning
Class, 9:30a

Worship: 10:30a
(Also
livestreamed)

**No Sunday
Evening Service**

Wednesday Bible
Study, 7p

Preacher

Michael Gors

Elders

Michael Gors

Gary Reynolds

Todd Stults

Deacons

Don Allison
Fellowship

Jim Clark
Visitation

Lowell Huffman
Media



Love. Grow. Serve.

Leaders in Worship

December 19, 2021

Announcements: Lowell Huffman

Song Leader: Don Allison

Opening Prayer: Danny Odle

Scripture: Bill Winemiller

Lord's Table: Jay Kellow

Sermon: Mike Gors

Closing Prayer: Todd Stults

Sound Room: Jacob Clark

Bible Study, December 22nd

Song Leader: Adam Gors

Devo: Case Reynolds

Prayer: Jimmy Clark

Counting Noses

One of the most common devices of the advocates of error in all ages has been that of counting up the number of persons who adhere to, or have adhered to a certain theory or system, as proof that it is true. In the days of Ahab, there were four hundred prophets claiming to be prophets of Jehovah who said that if he and Jehoshaphat went up to Ramoth-Gilead to battle, the Lord would prosper them, while Micaiah alone said the opposite. Ahab had four hundred to one in favor of his enterprise, yet he went and lost his life, as the one prophet said he would.

- by J. W. McGarvey

Note from Sue

If you have word of the sick and needful or news that you would like to have published in the bulletin, please contact Sue at her e-mail or via phone:

765-722-0090

e-mail; sierra-davis@att.net

You may also leave a note on the desk in the church office.

Thank you for the privilege of doing the bulletin.



*I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December.
A magical thing
And sweet to remember.*

*"We are nearer to Spring
Than we were in September,"
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December.*

The Bible Always Speaks

While serving as our ambassador to France, Benjamin Franklin joined a literary society. Such societies were common and numerous in France, but they were filled with infidels. Urged on by his quaint sense of humor, Mr. Franklin joined the most prominent of these societies. It was the custom of this group to have each member write an original story to be read to the society and then have the members criticize the story. Mr. Franklin copied by hand the French translation of the entire book of Ruth from the Bible. He met with the society at the appointed time and anxiously awaited the time for him to read his story. In warm and sympathetic tones, he read this great love story. For a few minutes, there was absolute silence, as the audience sat under the spell of the beautiful love story. Then some member began to applaud. When the chairman of the meeting said that it was the only perfect love story the world had ever heard, the society requested permission to print it. Mr. Franklin then said: "This story has already been printed and given to the world. You will find it in the Bible: the book you profess to despise, but about whose contents you apparently know so little."

- by Bob Buchanon

Happy Birthday

Karen Jaromin—Dec 24

Sally Anderson—Dec 27

Adam Gors—Dec 30



In Need of Prayer

Alex Odle

April Stinson, Cancer. Friend of Genny

Cliff Nicks, Improving enough to go home from hospital

Cory Cross, Cousin of Kendal

Damon Summers

David Sharp, Stage four cancer, Betty Kellow's brother.

Gordon and Brenda Huffman in Crossville, TN.

Rex Harper Family

Joyce Colvin, Scheduled to see cardiologist tomorrow

Kendall Clark, Blood clot in leg

Lisa Harmon, Terminal breast Cancer. Wife of Brian's friend

Marty Gors, Feeling better and is out and about some

Renee York, Shoulder surgery

Shawna Schock, Stomach trouble

Tom Davis, Back home from hospital



If you are visiting with us today, we welcome you and hope you have been enriched by what you have heard and seen here. If you wish to wear a mask, please do so. You will find masks, communion packets and contribution baskets at each double door. Visitor cards can be found on each aisle. If you have questions or concerns, the Elders would be glad to meet with you.

Changing the Standard

A Conductor to orchestra at the beginning of a rehearsal: "Please get your pencils out . . . we have some marking to do on this score: The first two bars are in 3/4, not 4/4 as written. Next, in the 5th bar, change it to 7/8 and this remains to the end. Now, in bar 7 we lower the pitch 1/2 step. In bar 13, lower the pitch one whole step and this will remain to the end. Thank you. Now, let us begin." Soprano soloist: "Excuse me, Maestro. What would you like for me to change?" Conductor: "Nothing, madam. Just sing it exactly as you did yesterday." When we vary from the standard, there are two things we can do. We can alter our lives to meet the standard, or (as in the story above) we can alter the standard and expect everyone else to meet this new flawed standard. The spiritual application should be readily apparent. What should we do when someone is teaching that which is not according to the Word of God, our spiritual standard? Do we hold to the standard and require them to comply, or do we attempt to change the standard? There can be no choice -- the standard cannot change. Breaking the scale won't fix our weight problem, and changing (or ignoring) God's Word won't make our sinful behavior acceptable.

- by Alan Smith

Making a Noise or Making a Point

All who engage in public speaking – including teachers, politicians, various public officials, AND preachers – have their own unique methods of preparing notes and aids to help them remember the points they want to make while before their audience. Some prefer to have their presentation in a fully written manuscript, while others would rather have a developed outline of what they will say. Still others need only a few scribbled comments on a card. Whatever the style, these visual 'helps' are usually very important for the speaker, and they are closely guarded in advance of the speaking assignment. We heard of one such orator who allowed his notes to be seen prior to his speech. In the margin of his outline he had written, "Yell louder here, this is a weak point." Think of it – he realized the weakness of what he was going to say, so he hoped to conceal it by making more noise. Unfortunately, many religious people do this very thing – although it is unlikely that they would actually admit it on their handwritten notes or elsewhere. What they are doing is an attempt to impress men, but we are sure that God is NOT impressed. This is not a new problem. Jude mentions those who "speak great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage" (vs. 16). And Paul said that "by good words and fair speeches they deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:18). In contrast, all who would faithfully proclaim God's message must not allow a desire for men's esteem to overwhelm their primary devotion to the truth. Paul described his methods in this way: "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). Peter urged that "if any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). Let's be sure we are making a true point rather than simply making noise! - by Greg Gwin