

## A SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE

There are some things one needs to carefully consider as one engages in the study of the Bible. This book which we are studying is no ordinary book. It may affect us in one of two ways: properly studied and applied, it will affect us for good in time and eternity; the improper study of it will cause one to lose one's soul.

The Bible is every man's book. It is not intended for some special group. But not only is the Bible every man's book, it is written for the average person. Scholars may study it, but it is not written necessarily with scholars in mind.

No one ever outgrows the Scriptures. The more one studies them, the wider and deeper they become. The Bible is a book which enables one to look into eternity. The best evidence of the inspiration of the Bible is to be found between its covers. No one will ever be a useful Christian unless one is a student of the Bible.

Matthew Henry said, "The Scriptures were written not to make us astronomers, but to make us saints." It is no wonder the Paul urged Timothy to study the Scriptures, "rightly dividing," or handling aright, the Word of truth, that he might be an approved workman before God.

The Bible is the greatest book in the world. It is the most accessible, and in it one finds truth that can be found in no other book.

The Bible is the only book that can give a satisfactory explanation of God, the world, man, sin, salvation, service, and life here and life hereafter.

The Bible acknowledges man's faults, it is patient with man's weaknesses, it is severe with man's sins, and it is honest with his virtues and his hopes.

To own the Bible is to be rich. The study, to know, and to trust the Bible is to find life. To study the Bible is to be wise; to obey it, to be strong.

To know the Bible and to handle it aright is the greatest accomplishment within the reach of any person. One may know English, astronomy, literature, music, sociology, and philosophy; but if one does not know the Bible, one has failed in the only subject that brings all things into their proper relationship and that enables one to know life at its best.

The one who seeks to know the Bible will endeavor to study its contents book by book, meet its characters as they unfold through its pages, study its types, its doctrine, its topics, paragraphs, sentences and words. This is a lifetime work.

The Bible is the one book that can save many a heartache. The following was found on the flyleaf of a Bible placed by the Gideons in a motel in Birmingham, Alabama: □ May God bless the man who placed this book here. I am a young lady twenty-one years old, fatherless and motherless. Tonight this book saved me from taking a wrong step.

May the next reader find it the

comfort that I did. □

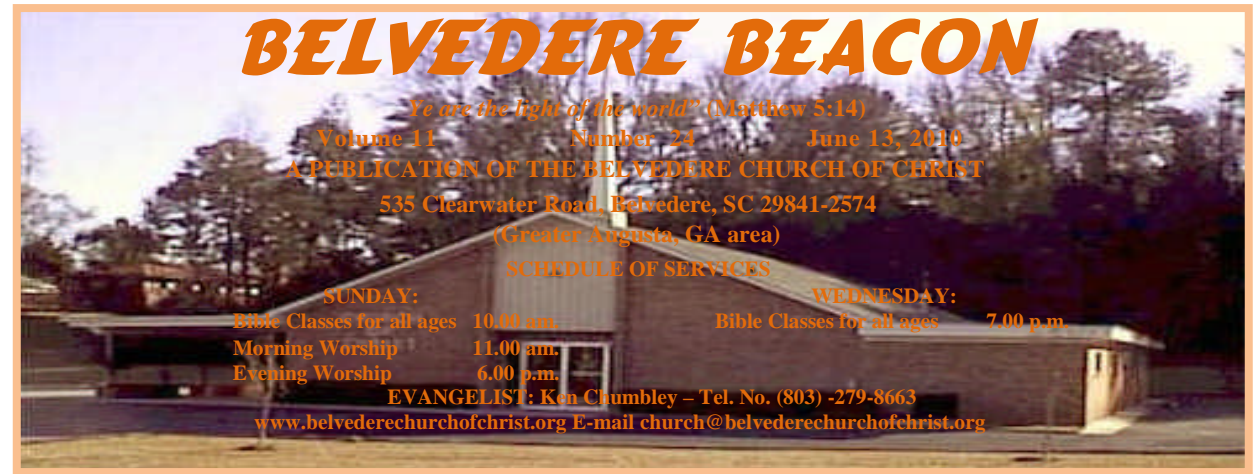
There is no greater accomplishment in life than to be able to rightly divide the Word of truth. It is worth all the sacrifice that is necessary to give to such a study. One can never be great in the true sense of that word who does not know the Word, love it, live it, delight in it, and teach it without perversion and without misrepresentation.

The one who studies this book and knows how to handle it is in a position to render the greatest service in the world. No wonder Paul told Timothy: (1) to study, (2) to be a workman, and (3) to seek to be approved of God. There is no higher ambition on earth.

The Bible is a mirror that enables us to see ourselves. It is food which supplies the strength that we need, a lamp to guide our way, a hammer to break and to build, a sword to fight and to defend, the seed to plant and grow, and the goal to own and to become our reward.

There are no experiences in life for which the Bible does not furnish a passage. May these thoughts lend encouragement to all of us to become diligent students of the Word that we may know the way of life and find the life that is life indeed.

Franklin Camp  
Deceased



**BELVEDERE BEACON**  
"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)  
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Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
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## FORSAKING ALL

"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). When we look up the word *forsake* we note that it means to "give up something formerly held dear; to renounce; to leave altogether; to abandon." In the context of this verse we hear our Lord saying that unless we give up all that we have formerly held dear, and leave it altogether we cannot be counted as one of His followers. Let us look together at what we must forsake if we hope to please the Lord.

**I Must Forsake "My Church."** Matthew 15:13 tells us that every plant which God has not planted shall be rooted up. The Lord promised to build one church (Mat. 16:18) and that is exactly what He did, and if we want to be saved we must be a part of His church and not "My Church."

**I Must Forsake "My Parents."** The Lord, in Matthew 10:37, tells us that if we love mother or father more than Him we are not worthy of Him. We cannot put anyone or anything before our love and service to the Lord. We must "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" (Mat. 6:33), and give Him our first-fruits, and not let anyone stand in our way of doing right.

**I Must Forsake "The Doctrines of Men."** If we teach for doctrine the commands of men, then we are worshiping the Lord in vain (Mat. 15:9). The Word of the Lord was given to us "for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" so we might be "complete" furnished with all that we need to do right (2 Tim. 3:16-17). If we teach and preach anything else we will stand condemned.

**I Must Forsake "All Worldliness."** John said, "Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). James said that if we are friends of the world we are the enemy of God (Jam. 4:4). No man can serve two masters. No man can serve God and the world, so we must forsake this world and keep ourselves unspotted from the world.

**I must Forsake "My Way."** Jeremiah said that the way of man is not in himself and that man could not direct his own steps (Jer. 10:23). There is only one **way** that leads to eternal life and that Way is the Lord. No man can get to the Father except through **Him**. Will you not **Forsake all**, and **Surrender** to the Lord before it is too late?

Danny Box, Deceased

**“WORLD CONVENTION OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST”**

You might not have ever heard of the organization known as the World Convention of Churches of Christ. However such an organization exists and has been since 1930. Every four years this group convenes a convention somewhere in the world where members and leaders Disciples of Christ (Christian Church), Independent Churches of Christ and Churches of Christ meet together. Note this quote from the web site of the organization: “In 1930 the first World Convention of Churches of Christ was held to provide our family with an appropriate way of sharing globally. The next convention, in Brighton, England, UK in the year 2004, will be the sixteenth. There are now more than 168 countries with congregations relating to our 19th Century heritage and there is a vast network of links within this family. World Convention provides a unique means of building fellowship, understanding and common purpose within this diverse Christian World Communion.” This information alone should be sufficient to enable faithful members of the church to realize that such is no place for them.

This organization was the creation of the Disciples of Christ who, over a century ago, abandoned the plea and commitment of being the restoration of the church of the first century. The Disciples of Christ are both theologically and culturally among the most liberal of the denominations. The Disciples of Christ and the convention itself are a vital part of the Ecumenical Movement and are deeply involved with the supposed World Council of Churches. They claim that their denomination was founded by Barton Warren Stone and Alexander Campbell.

You might wonder why I am discussing this matter at this time. Well, the reason is that earlier this year Gary Holloway, a professor at David Lipscomb University and the preacher of the Natchez Trace Church of Christ in Nashville, Tennessee. That Holloway is professor at David Lipscomb University is a clear indication of how this school has turned its back on the founding principles of the school that was established by David Lipscomb. Lipscomb, as editor of the *Gospel Advocate* was a leader in the opposition to the apostasy that became the Disciples of Christ. The division, came over matters such as the missionary society, instrumental music in worship, women serving as preachers, elders and deacons and theological liberalism. Why would a professor at Lipscomb want to serve as the Executive Director of this organization. Why would the administration and board of trustees of the university allow Holloway to serve in this capacity? Why would the elders of the Natchez Trace church allow their preacher to take this position with a denominational group. Why would the organization want to hire Holloway? Could it be that they share the same views? One thing is certain, the Disciples of Christ has not turned back from the direction that they took over 100 years ago. In fact, they have moved further and further away from the truth as the years have gone by.

Sadly, David Lipscomb University is not alone in its abandonment of the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3) and the Natchez Trace Church of Christ is not alone among congregations that have abandoned that faith. Faithful brethren need to stand fast for the truth concerning the church which our Lord established and purchased with His blood that was shed on Calvary's cross (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28).

*Ken Chumbley*

**NEWS AND NOTES**

Keep in your prayers the following: Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron's sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

The Wilsons were in North Carolina last Sunday visiting with Cynthia in Raleigh. Cynthia is there for six months in an internship as part of her studies at MIT.

Keep Ron Wilson's mother in your prayers, she is experiencing some health issues.

Ken Chumbley is in Pensacola where he is speaking twice on the lectureship program of the Bellview congregation. He plans to be home on Thursday.

The next pot luck will be on June 20 following the morning worship. Plan to stay and eat with us.

**THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH**

The stories of good men like Abraham, Moses and David are delineated in the Bible without any effort whatever to eulogize them.

When Abraham misled Pharaoh concerning his wife, the incident is repeated just as it happened (Gen. 12:14-20). When Moses killed an Egyptian and buried him and was forced to flee from Egypt, the story is faithfully recorded (Ex. 2:11-22).

In later years when Moses smote the rock and failed to sanctify God, the story is recorded without any effort to modify it in the least (Num. 20:7-14).

Men do not ordinarily point out the weaknesses and mistakes of good men whom they describe. Usually they heap praise upon them and censure those whom they describe as weak. Not one of the writers of the Old or New Testaments ever appealed to the curiosity or vanity of their readers. They recorded just as much of the truth as was necessary for their purpose and no more. No one can account for their peculiar style of writing on any other ground than divine inspiration. What they wrote was the unvarnished truth that came from God.

*L. R. Wilson  
Deceased*