

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE:

Bernice Beeson, Terry Cantrell, Dickie & Joann Crouch, Richard Faulkner, Eva Lee, Melvin & Ruth Messer, Sophia Sears, Linda Smith, Joann White, Jimmy, Elizabeth, Katie & Laura Thompson, Darlene Wilson, and those engaged in teaching the lost.

If you notice someone's absence from the assembly pray for them, and call to see if there is some additional way you can help. *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise* (Proverbs 13:20).

MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:
www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

PRAYER LIST UPDATES:

Mary Weston has been diagnosed with a bacterial colitis that cannot be cured. It can be managed, and there is almost no cancer risk. The medicine will make her condition worse before it gets better. She will probably have to stay at home at least three weeks. She appreciates all your offers to bring food, etc., but she can still take care of her house, and can't eat anything anyway: nothing she "can't see through" for 3 weeks.

Bill Weston has a growth on his eye that will require laser surgery next week.

BE A DAILY BIBLE READER

Euin Barrier, Carl Brand, Ora Cash, Emily Devereaux, Jimmy Hall, Ken & Mabel Lock, Bobby Mills, Earline Smith, Barbara Staten, Lisa Williams,

Katherine Ford's sister, Patricia, had successful knee replacement Tuesday.

Bill Mears had his shoulder worked on to increase range of motion without pain.

OTHER NEWS:

YOUTH pizza and skating in Jonesboro after this morning's assembly.

SINGING AND SANDWICHES: Tonight

GOSPEL MEETING: Today through Wednesday Tony Pulliam of Vidor, Texas is at Viva Drive in Trumann.

GOSPEL MEETING: Next Sunday B.J. Clarke is scheduled to begin a 4-day meeting with the Bay church.

SPRING AHEAD: Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday, so remember to turn your clocks forward 1 hour Saturday night.

THE RECORD SPEAKS (week of 2-28):
Sunday Bible Class 65
Sunday AM Worship 90
Sunday PM Worship 66
Contribution \$2,040
Wednesday PM Bible Class 60

WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU?

Next Week's Lessons:

AM: "What Manner of Persons Ought Ye to Be?"

PM: "When Jerusalem's Blood is Purged"

Welcome
to the Assemblies of
Harrisburg
Church of Christ

P. O. Box 266
(504 N. Brooks St)
Harrisburg, AR 72432
(870) 578-2965

Sunday:

Bible Classes 9:00
Worship 9:45; 6:00

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7:00

Elders:

Ray Blanchard 578-2559
Bill Mears 578-9650
Mark Weston 931-2790

Evangelist:

Al Parr 578-9154
(Cell) 903-721-0332

World Evangelism:

- ◆Cape Town, S.A.;
- ◆Int'l Bible Academe;

Benevolence:

- ◆Children's Homes, Inc.;
- ◆Southern Christian Home

★REMEMBER★

Family Video Bible Night
April 3, 6:00 PM

Be a
Daily Bible Reader



visit www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

March 7, 2010

THE BIBLE – WHAT IS IT?

The word "bible" comes from the Greek word that would be translated literally as "book". The word is found, for instance, in Revelation 20:12 ("the books were opened").

The Bible has been called "the Book of books" for several reasons. The first and most obvious reason is that the Bible is actually a collection of 66 separate and distinct writings of various types. These 66 writings, however, are so written that they tell one complete story without contradicting one another. These books were written by about 40 different men living on three different continents over a period of about 1,600 years, from the books of Moses (about 1,500 B.C.) to the book of John (about A.D. 90-96). The Bible, then, is one book composed of many books.

THE BIBLE IS ALSO THE PRE-EMINENT BOOK AMONG BOOKS BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY BOOK WHICH REASONABLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE ORIGIN AND EXISTENCE OF ALL THINGS. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1) is a bold statement, but there is abundant evidence to support its truthfulness. There are many theories among so-called scholars in the world, but the Bible record of creation is the only account that is in complete harmony with all known scientific laws and historical records. (Cont'd)

THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY BOOK THAT SATISFACTORILY ACCOUNTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF SIN IN THE WORLD AND GIVES MAN A TRUE HOPE OF SALVATION. Man himself is responsible for his own sin because he makes choices that reject God's call to moral purity (compare Genesis 2:17 & 3:6). Since sinful man cannot provide for his own salvation, God alone has the power and the unchanging will to save man from that sin. The Bible is the only book that shows God's provision for man's salvation and clearly announces God's plan for man's role in acquiring that salvation (Romans 6:3-7).

THE BIBLE IS ALSO THE ONLY BOOK THAT GIVES US A FACTUAL PREVIEW OF THE FUTURE. Reading its pages we learn of the condition of the dead (Luke 16:19-31), the coming punishment of those who continue to reject God (Matthew 25:30), and the glorious eternal life of the righteous who live according to what is written in this great "Book of books" (Revelation 22:1-5).

The 66 books of the Bible are organized in a logical way that aids man in both understanding and remembering what is written. Each book has been divided into chapters and verses to make every word of God easy to find and study.

The first 39 books compose the Old Testament. They were written between 1,500 B.C. and 400 B.C. In them we learn of the creation of the world (including man himself), man's fall into sin, the world-wide flood, and the distribution of mankind throughout the habitable lands. We learn of God's selection of one man who had great faith in God, and of the development of the nation (Israel) that descended from that man (Abraham). We read how God used that nation to prepare the world for the coming of the One who would save man from sin.

The 39 books of the Old Testament (so designated in Hebrews chapters 8 & 9) are grouped according to literature type. The first 5 books are referred to as books of law because they contain the law that God gave to Israel and the historical background to it. They were written by Moses in about 1,500 B.C. The next 12 books are historical in nature and cover the time period from the death of Moses until about 400 B.C. Five books of poetry are next in order, though their poetic style is not the most important fact about them. They have also been called "books of wisdom" because three of them were written by Solomon, a man to whom God gave great wisdom and understanding. These books might also be called books of praise, because much of what is here written is designed to give high praise to God for His wonderful blessings. The last 17 books of the Old Testament are books of prophecy. Written by men who were told by God what to preach and write, they admonish the people to live faithfully to the Law, but they

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also foretell the coming of the Savior of the world; who would do away with the division between Jew and Gentile, and bring all people of the world into one church through which all would be able to worship God equally.

The fulfilment of that great promise is recorded in the 27 books of the New Testament. These books were written between about A.D. 47 and A.D. 96, but they record historical events beginning in about 5 B.C. and continuing for about 100 years. The first 4 books, called "The Gospels," are biographical in nature. They tell of the birth, life, and death of Jesus of Nazareth. It was He who came in fulfilment of the prophecies of a savior, as these four books clearly prove. He promised to build that one church that would be the family of God on earth (Matthew 16:18). There is one book of history in the New Testament. Following immediately after the gospels, it is called "The Acts of the Apostles." It records the words and actions of the people who had come to know Jesus through his own actions and words (Acts 1:1). In this book we can read of the beginning of the church and of its rapid spread throughout the world. The next 21 books are actually letters that were written to churches and individual Christians by men who were motivated by God to write the specific words God wanted the people to hear (I Corinthians 2:11-13). The first 14 letters are called "special epistles" because each one was addressed to a particular Christian or church and written to address the specific needs of that original recipient at the time it was written. The remaining 7 of these letters are referred to as "general epistles" because they were written to be circulated among Christians and churches everywhere (or in some cases, in one general geographic area). Because man has the same spiritual needs everywhere in all generations these letters are as pertinent to us today as they were to the people who first read them. The last book of the Bible is the New Testament's only book of prophecy. It is a "Revelation" of God's will to John, an apostle of Jesus. Addressed to 7 churches in what is today the nation of Turkey, it told Christians living under the persecution of the Roman Empire what "must shortly come to pass" in their lives in the first century A.D. In the last two chapters of the book we read of the certainty of the ultimate triumph of those who persevere in their righteousness despite the opposition of people around them – and we read several descriptions of the glories of the eternal home which God has prepared for those who so persevere.

The Bible is truly "the Book of Books." Let us together explore its pages, seeking the lighted path (Psalm 118:105; I John 1:7), "the old paths where is the good way" (Jeremiah 6:16) – and together let us "walk therein." (by A. L. Parr from outlines by Roy H. Lanier)

I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts (Psalm 119:94):

B E A D A I L Y B I B L E R E A D E R