



**Anchor of the Soul
P.O. Box 401
Spruce Pine, NC 28777**



Anchor of the Soul

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What Gospel Preaching Can Do

Preaching Divine Creation stirs the Evolutionist.

Preaching against liquor stirs the drinker.

Preaching on modesty stirs the immodest.

Preaching on attendance stirs those unfaithful in attendance.

Preaching the one true church stirs the denominationalists.

Preaching on pure speech stirs the gossip.

Preaching on dedication stirs the uncommitted.

Preaching on honesty stirs the cheat.

Preaching against sin stirs the guilty.

Preaching on Christ stirs those who love Him.

Preaching on Heaven stirs the hearts of those who want to go there.

**Come visit the Spruce Pine church of Christ
and hear soul-stirring Gospel preaching
(Acts 17:6; Rom. 1:16; II Pet. 1:13, 3:1)!!**

“When It Was a Crime To Read The Bible”

By Joe R. Price

By the start of the third decade of the 16th century, William Tyndale had already been on the run for five years. The king of England, Henry VIII, had declared him a felon. Fleeing Roman Catholic authorities in London (never to return to England), he went first to Cologne, France, and then Worms, Germany. What crime had this "evil" man committed? Of what rebellious act of treason was he guilty? He dared to translate and then print the New Testament in the English language!

In England in the 1520's (indeed, throughout Europe during the middle ages), unless you were literate in Hebrew, Greek or Latin, reading the Bible for yourself was impossible. You had to rely upon what the Roman Catholic clergy said the Bible contained. You would not have been able to study the Bible for yourself to discern the truth for yourself - much less be free to practice what you learned therein. Rome ruled with an iron hand.

The Catholic Church did not want nor permit a wide transmission of the Bible and its contents. When Tyndale's NT was published in Worms, 6,000 copies were shipped back to England. Medieval historian William Manchester reports,

"To the bishop of London this was an intolerable, metastasizing heresy. He bought up all that were for sale and publicly burned them at St. Paul's Cross. But the archbishop of Canterbury was dissatisfied; his spies told him that many remained in private hands. Protestant peers with country houses were loaning them out, like public libraries. Assembling his bishops, the archbishop declared that tracking them down was essential -- each was placing souls in jeopardy -- and so, on his instructions, dioceses

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organized posses, searching the homes of known literates, and offered rewards to informers -- sending out the alarm to keep Christ's revealed word from those who worshiped him." (A World Lit Only By Fire, 204-205)

Tyndale was eventually arrested and imprisoned for sixteen months in the castle of Vilvorde, near Brussels. In 1536, after being tried and convicted for heresy he was publicly executed, being tied to a stake, strangled to death, and then his corpse burned.

As we consider Tyndale's struggle and sacrifice to provide the common Englishman with readable, discernable scriptures, we are made to thank God for the daily ease and convenience with which we can open the Bible and study it for ourselves. We are made to cherish the privilege that is ours to pour over the divine text, understand it, reflection upon it, think over it so as to bring our hearts and lives into harmony with it, as well as also teach it to others (Eph. 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Tim. 2:2).

If you have been neglecting to read, learn and live God's word, please remember the good fortune you have: education and access -- the abundant opportunity to read and know God's word. To not drinking deeply from its well is to squander a precious blessing (cf. Jas. 4:17).

The next time you pick up your Bible and read it, remember the sacrifices of countless others who have made that simple act possible. But above all, remember the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave His life on the cross and was then resurrected from the dead so that you know the truth, abide in His word and thus be freed from your sin (Jno. 8:31-36; 1:1-3, 14-18).

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God Built It

By Byron Smith

When you see a house that has been built there are at least two obvious facts you immediately know and accept. One fact is that the house exists. This is an undeniable reality. The second fact, based upon the first, is that someone built that house, an equally undeniable reality. It did not just spontaneously appear. With these facts no one argues, they are readily accepted by all. By occupation I am a builder. I build houses and occasionally other structures of relative size and importance. When I have worked, along with my fellow workers, and have constructed a house, it can rightly be said that we built that house. We are the ones who are responsible for its existence, and so the credit or discredit, depending on the quality of craftsmanship, goes to us. Let's now apply these simple principles to a much grander reality that is of utmost importance, the existence of God and His creative work.

The writer of Hebrews states unequivocally, "For every house is built by someone, but **He who built all things is God.**" (3:4) This agrees with the first words of the Bible, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:1) Our existence and **the existence** of the universe around us is such a self-evident fact, to deny it would be the height of absurdity and insanity. But where did it come from? Bear in mind that **nothing comes from nothing and every effect has a cause.** Every mountain, plateau, and desert you see is the effect of a cause. Every tree, shrub, and flower came from something or someone. All creatures, from the smallest insect to the largest mammal, are the effect of a grand cause. When you perceive your reflection in a mirror you are once again seeing the effect of a cause. What is that cause? Remember, "**He who built all things is God!**"

Much more impressive than the mere fact that those things exist and are the direct result of a cause, is the reality that they exist with meticulous **design and purpose.**

Interesting Facts About the Bible

compiled by B.C. Goodpasture

The Bible contains 3,566,480 letters, 773,746 words, 31,102 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books. The Old Testament contains 39 books; the New Testament, 27 books. The average length of a word contains fewer than five letters. What a lesson for the fellow who has a mania for big words!

The word "and" occurs 46,277 times, and the word "reverend" but once (Psa. 111:9). The middle chapter and the shortest is Psa. 117. It contains only two verses. The middle verse in the Bible is Psa. 118:8. The middle book of the Old Testament is Proverbs. The middle chapter of the Old Testament is Job 29. The middle verse of the Old Testament is 2 Chron. 20:13. The shortest verse in the Old Testament is 1 Chron. 1:25; the longest, Esther 8:9. The middle book of the New Testament is 2 Thess. The middle chapter in the New Testament is between Rom. 13, 14. The middle verse in the New Testament is Acts 17:17. The shortest verse in the New Testament is Jn. 11:35. The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9; it contains ninety words. The longest word in the Bible is found in Isa. 8:1. All the letters of the alphabet, except j, are in Ezra 7:21. The nineteenth chapter of 2 Kings and the thirty-seventh chapter of Isa. are nearly identical.

The Hammer and the Anvil

John Clifford

"Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime'
When looking in, I say upon the floor,
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had,' said I,
'To wear and batter all those hammers so?'
'Just one,' said he; then said with twinkling eye,
'The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.'

"And so, I thought, the anvil of God's word
For ages skeptic's blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed – the hammers gone!"

Bible Reading

Alexander Campbell

Christians, do you read the Bible in your families every day? Do you read it in your closet every day? And do you read it not to quiet your conscience as a work of penance; but do you read it as a pleasure anxiously to be sought after? If you do, I need not tell you what utility, pleasure, and happiness is in the blessed employment. But if you do not, you may rest assured there is something greatly wrong, which, if it is not abandoned, subdued, or vanquished soon, will cause you sorrows, if not agonies, when you will be less able to conflict with them than at present. Resolve this moment, I pray you, that you will begin to-day to read the Bible, to enjoy God and Christ and the hope of immortality. "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee, bind them about thy neck, write them upon the table of thine heart; so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man." Then will you say with Solomon, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth understanding: for the merchandize of it is better than the merchandize of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared with her. Length of days is in her right hand, and in her left hand riches and honor: her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace." "Begin to-day: 'tis madness to defer." The religious world--I mean the great majority of all professors, are Bible neglectors. Their ignorance, prejudice, and error show it. I beseech you, daily, habitually, constantly, prayerfully read the Bible in its proper connexions, and you will grow in grace as you grow in the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord. The Lord will bless you, as he has said, in this deed. Read James 1:22-25., and may you prove it true!

The Millennial Harbinger, New Series 3 (January 1839): 35-38

From the vast universe, with all of its incomprehensible celestial bodies, to the smallest grain of sand there is architecture. From the petals and stamen of a beautiful flower to the innumerable variations of the snowflake there is art. From the oceans to the rivers to the life that is teeming within them there is creative ingenuity. Can one reflect upon the mysteries of life with all of its components and attribute such to chance? Can a rational mind honestly accredit life to "spontaneous generation", to evolution, and yes again, to chance? To do so is to insult the ability that man possesses to reason and draw sensible conclusions. (cf. Ps. 14:1; Rom. 1:20)

Could one possibly fail to see the **design and purpose** of the human body? It compellingly attests to the creative power and ability of God. It is a masterpiece of structural design. The complexity of the brain and nervous system, the intricacy of the eye and ear, the wonders of the heart, they all testify that "**He who built all things is God!**" The body does not just happen to be! Even a superficial examination of the body demonstrates that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made..." (Ps. 139:14)

Where did this magnificent world in which we live come from? As David said so long ago, "The heaven declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork". (Ps. 19:1) Truly, "He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." (Ps. 33:9) Yes, again, "**He who built all things is God!**" We should stand in awe of His majesty. "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." (Rev. 4:11)

Visit the Spruce Pine church of Christ
On 36 McHone Rd behind the Mitchell Vet Clinic
Sunday at 10 AM, 11 AM & 6:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Study at 7 PM
828-467-1463

Bible Reading Plan

by Andy Mitchell

On the following page is a Bible Reading Schedule for August. Due to the requests received, I decided to bring this feature back into this newsletter. I hope this will help you in your daily studies.

This is a 5 day per week reading plan. This allows two days off for catch up if you miss a day. Also, many find that since they are with the church on Sundays and Wednesdays, it is harder to find the time to read on those days, so they have been omitted from this schedule. This plan with future calendars, will take you through the entire Bible in a year, unless the Lord returns before then.

The Bible is NOT just any book. It is more than good literature. It is the inspired word of God! *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

God used the efforts of men in revealing the Bible to us, but the men did not make it up as they went. David said, *“The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.”* (2 Sam. 23:2). Peter by inspiration said, *“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation, for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* (2 Pet. 1:20-21)

We will be judged by the words found in the Bible (Jn. 12:48), so we would be wise to know what it says.

To love Jesus is to obey him (Jn. 14:15). How can we do that if we don't know what his commandments are?

Be noble-minded like the Bereans who *“sought the scriptures daily”* (Ac. 17:11). I am here to help you stick to this good habit. Sometimes it helps to have some accountability. **Would you like a daily reminder by e-mail or phone? Or, would you meet with me in person and read the Bible daily with me? Please call 828-467-1463.**

August Bible Reading

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	2 Gen. 1-3 Mt. 1	3 Gen. 4-6 Mt. 2	4 Study With Us! 7 PM	5 Gen. 7-9 Mt. 3-4	6 Gen. 10-12 Mt. 5	7 Gen. 13-16 Mt. 6
8 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	9 Gen. 17-19 Mt. 7	10 Gen. 20-23 Mt. 8	11 Study With Us! 7 PM	12 Gen. 24-25 Mt. 9	13 Gen. 26-27 Mt. 10	14 Gen. 28-30 Mt. 11
15 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	16 Gen. 31-32 Mt. 12	17 Gen. 33-35 Mt. 13:1-30	18 Study With Us! 7 PM	19 Gen. 36-37 Mt. 13:31-58	20 Gen. 38-40 Mt. 14	21 Gen. 41-42 Mt. 15
22 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	23 Gen. 43-45 Mt. 16	24 Gen. 46-48 Mt. 17	25 Study With Us! 7 PM	26 Gen. 49-Ex. 1 Mt. 18	27 Ex. 2-4 Mt. 19	28 Ex. 5-7 Mt. 20
29 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	30 Ex. 8-10 Mt. 21	31 Ex. 11-13 Mt. 22				