

Want to Know More?

Interested in understanding more about the Bible and God's plan of salvation for humanity? Please visit our website (www.jonesroadchurch.org) for the following resources.

- Audio Sermons
- Bible-based Articles
- Classes studying the Sermon on the Mount, leadership in Nehemiah, and four great teachers found in the Bible.
- We can also be found on Facebook (Jones Road Church of Christ) and Twitter (@jonesroadchurch). Email: study@jonesroadchurch.org

Please Join us for Bible Study and Worship

Sundays

- 9:30am - Bible Study
- 10:20am & 5pm - Worship

Wednesdays

- 7pm - Bible Study

Jones Road Church of Christ

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"How sweet are Your words to my taste,
Sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Through Your precepts I get understanding;
Therefore I hate every false way.
Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path." Psalm 119:103-105



The Friendly Visitor

March 2017

"For a man to have friends, he must show himself friendly." Proverbs 18:24

Why We Come to You Each Month

By John R. Gibson

We appreciate you allowing *The Friendly Visitor* into your home each month and hope you find it helpful, but we realize some of you may wonder why we send this out each month or why your name was added to the mailing list. Because we send it free of charge, it certainly is not because we are making money from it. And away from controversial Bible topics, we realize we run the risk of upsetting some (though that is certainly not our aim). So do we mail you these Bible-based articles each month? Simply put, we believe, as the following passages show, that knowledge of the Scriptures is essential and we want this little paper to help increase its reader's knowledge of and appreciation for the word of God.

Knowledge of God's Will Is Needed

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). Because Jesus insisted on obedience to God's will, we cannot afford to rely on our feelings, intuitions, hopes, or religious traditions; instead, we must turn to God's word so that our lives will be guided by His will and not our own inferior thinking.

The Truth Will Set Us Free

No, the truth of God's word will not free us from all the difficulties of this world, but it will liberate us from that which can keep us from God. *"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free....Most assuredly, I say to you, who-*

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ever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:31-36). Because all have sinned (Rom. 3:23) and “*the wages of sin is death*” (Rom. 6:23), we want everyone to have an opportunity to know the emancipating truth found only in Jesus and the Scriptures (John 14:6; 17:17) and we believe this publication can help with that.

The Gospel Has the Power to Save

Paul, along with other first-century Christians, put his life on the line to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ because he saw it as “*the power of God to salvation*” (Rom. 1:16). The verse goes on to stress that God’s salvation is accessible to all, but unless we know the truths revealed in the gospel we cannot be saved. In that same epistle, the apostle would also write, “*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Rom. 10:17). God desires you to have the salvation which can only come by faith in Christ and to that end, each month we seek to promote a greater knowledge of the faith-producing word of God, His power to save.

We Cannot Resist Satan Without Knowledge

Though we cannot see them with the physical eye, Christians are in a battle “*against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*” (Eph. 6:12). The thought of having to wrestle against these wicked cosmic forces is frightening, but the same context provides assurance we can “*be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might*” if we “*put on the whole armor of God*” (Eph. 6:10-11). What is the armor which enables us to win the victory? It includes among other things, “*having girded your waist with truth,*” “*having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace,*” “*taking the shield of faith*” (that faith which comes by hearing God’s word—Rom. 10:17), and doing battle with “*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*” (Eph. 6:13-17). We send this out regularly in hopes people will read it and become better acquainted with the truth, the gospel, the word of God which will enable them to defeat Satan and his forces.

Born Again by God’s Word

While most are somewhat familiar with Jesus’ assertion that the new birth is necessary (John 3:3-5), many are not aware of what His apostle said about the means by which that new beginning is produced. “*Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible,*

through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because ‘All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the Lord endures forever.’ Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you” (1 Pet. 1:22-25). Each month we mail *The Friendly Visitor* to hundreds of homes because souls can only be purified and the new birth can only occur when truth is obeyed and the gospel containing the incorruptible word of God is proclaimed.

Do these few passages give you a better understanding of why we mail this out each month? Does it help you have a deeper appreciation of the importance of knowing the Scriptures? We sincerely hope you will read *The Friendly Visitor* each month with a thirst for knowledge and then feel free to share it with others or send us names and addresses to be added to the mailing list. And if you are interested in further expanding your knowledge of God’s saving truth, please visit our website for its articles and sermons. In addition, we want to extend a special invitation to all who are in our area to visit our assemblies and group studies.

In closing, we plead with you to be like those of Acts 17:10-11 who “*received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*”

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GOSPEL PREACHING

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- Please join us April 9-12, 2017 to hear the gospel proclaimed by Jeff May.
 - 9:30 A.M. The Israelite Journey: It's Your Story
 - 10:20 A.M. Don't Ever Give Up: Job
 - 5:00 P.M. Hiding Sin
 - Sunday
 - The Queen of Sheba and Heaven
 - There's Not Much Difference: Lessons from Jeroboam Needed Today
 - Since We Are Surrounded
 - Monday-Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
 - The Queen of Sheba and Heaven
 - There's Not Much Difference: Lessons from Jeroboam Needed Today
 - Since We Are Surrounded
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