

GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17)
- Believe Jesus is the Christ (John 3:16)
- Repent from sins (Luke 13:3)
- Confess faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9-10)
- Be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Live worthy of the calling (Ephesians 4:1)

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

List:

New: Hope Vinogradov is preparing to begin treatment. Let’s keep her in our prayers. **Arlena Poynter** will be having gull bladder surgery in the near future. The lesion removed from **Reese Worley** about a year ago has returned. The doctors will decide where to go from here. This is very tough on everyone involved so let’s remember the entire family in all our prayers.

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Paul Atkisson, Lindsay Morgan, Louis Harrod, Rhonda Boyd

Others: Jan Hogen, Barabara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail Stein, Sandy Childress, Bill Childress, Susie Burton, Fred Dalton, Norma Hurt, Vernon Johnson, Lavon Speer, Jacob Profit, Maureen Sheldon, Valarie Boyd, Barry Boyd, Leroy Weatherholt, Tony Tyree, Wesley Sizemore

<u>WEEKLY READING</u>		<u>LEADERSHIP</u>		<u>SERVICES</u>
Mon	Nehemiah 10-13, Revelation 8	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Tue	Malachi 1-4, Revelation 9, Psalm 2	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed	Job 1-3, Revelation 10, Psalm 29	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu	Job 4-7, Revelation 11, Psalm 99	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	<u>Wednesday</u>
Fri	Job 8-11, Revelation 12		Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
		<u>EVANGELIST</u>	Bill Morelan	<u>1st Fri. of Month</u>
		Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
			Pat Seabolt	<u>3rd Fri. of Month</u>
			Adam Daniels	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
			Jamie Powell	(Finished for the time being)

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Let There Be Light

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.” (Genesis 1:1-4)

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
John 8:12

The essential relationship between light and life can be neither denied nor undervalued. Life cannot exist without light. We should all be extremely appreciative that the first thing created by the most wise and gracious God was light.

God, in His mercy and graciousness, did not stop with the creation of the light that fuels our physical world. When man sinned, and was driven out of the Garden of Eden, spiritual darkness descended over the face of the earth, but God had a plan to bring spiritual light to the world once again. Consider the following scriptures that so eloquently speak to the spiritual light that comes from God.

John 1:1-4 says, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

John 8:12 says, *“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

1 John 1:5-7 says, *“This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

Would you choose to live in darkness? Would you purposely disconnect the power grid from your house, call up the propane service and tell them you will require no more deliveries? Would you hibernate in your darkened house during the day with the windows shuttered tightly so that no light entered? Would you venture out only at night, dressed all in black, wearing sunglasses, and keeping only to the shadows? Such behavior is not normal; people who live that way are considered disturbed.

But people choose to remain in spiritual darkness when they can have light in abundant quantities. *“And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”* (John 3:19-21)

The scriptures have so much more to say about the spiritual light provided by God through Jesus Christ. To fail to walk in that light, to choose to walk in spiritual darkness, can only result in being banished to eternal darkness. May everyone seek the light of Christ; love that light; live by that light; and be with that light in eternity.

Revelation 22:5 says, *“And night will be no more. They will need no **light** of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their **light**, and they will reign forever and ever.”*
The Elders

Better Bible Study

The benefits of word studies

Sometimes it is beneficial to do a more intensive study of a word than a simple reading alone provides. If you want to know the exact meaning of a Bible word an English dictionary is not the place to go. Most of the New Testament was originally transmitted in Greek. Greek is a much more expressive language than English. Where English might use one word with a plethora of meanings and nuances, Greek uses several to narrow down precisely what is being described. For example, the Greek language uses several words for our English word “love”, each with slightly different meanings. Taking the time to see which word was originally used can only help to add to our understanding of the passage.

The vast majority of us are not fluent in the original languages of Scripture. This means that if we are to engage in a good word study we must have good resources at our disposal. While many of these can be found online and used free of charge, I recommend that all Christians purchase their own copies. Often they can be found in discount bookstores for very reasonable prices. All Bible students would benefit from a good

interlinear Bible (a Bible containing both the English text as well as the text of the original language). Try to find one in the English translation of the Bible you use most often.

Most interlinear Bible’s are coded to Strong’s Concordance Numbers. This means that the words of the original language will have numbers above or below them. These numbers tell us where to find the particular word we’re studying in a lexicon or dictionary keyed to Strong’s numbering system. Thayer’s lexicon and Vine’s Dictionary’s are coded to Strong’s numbers. These are tried and tested resources that Bible students have been using for many years. Simply note the number and find it in either of those resources to get the meaning of the word. Other beneficial resources for word studies include A.T. Robertson’s *Word Pictures Of The New Testament* and *Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies*. There are obviously many more but these are considered standards in the field and good resources to begin with.

Two cautions are necessary before beginning word studies. First, learn to tell the difference between the definition of a word and commentary on it. Even the best scholars bring their own theological ideas and agendas to their work. After defining a word they will often begin to expound upon it. Their doctrinal positions invariably reflect in their comments. The definition(s) always comes first and is usually italicized. Everything after the definition is the uninspired scholar’s thoughts on the word. These thoughts can be very helpful but they can also contain false teaching. Just pay attention!

Secondly, always keep the context in mind. As with English, Hebrew and Greek words can have several meanings depending upon their context. Sometimes a person, particularly one new to word studies, will pull out one of several meanings and apply it in to a word whose context won’t allow it. This leads to misunderstandings and distortions. Remember to carefully consider a context when determining the exact definition of an original word. If it conflicts with the Bible’s teaching in other places, or seems to stray from the context of the passage itself, you know you’re pulling out the wrong definition of the word.

Word studies can be very beneficial and this short article provides the groundwork to help you get started. If you have any questions or need a little help getting started, I’d be happy to lend a hand. May your Bible study become even more regular and profitable!
Adam Litmer

Sermons: (AM) Jesus Cares

(PM) Preparing the Next Generation

Reading: (AM) Psalm 1

(PM) Psalm 2