



Church of Christ at Beech Grove

meeting at Beechgrove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

Highway 41 near I-24 exit 97

 P.O. Box 85 -- Beechgrove, TN 37018

Phone 931-394-2305

<http://kennethlorin.com/BeechGroveChurch.html>

<http://kennethlorin.com/WeeklyBulletin.html>

Kenneth L. Thomas, minister - 615-890-6959

Authority or Interpretation

It is interesting to note the differing reactions of individuals when confronted with what the Bible teaches on a particular issue. Inevitably, the first response to the putting forth of such information is, "that is your interpretation." Hence, when it comes to worship, salvation, lifestyle, or anything in between, what the Bible teaches concerning a subject is simply our "interpretation" of the facts.

If such a philosophy is true, then there is no way for mankind to be able to come to a clear, distinct knowledge of the truth. For any decision which man makes, any belief he holds, is simply his interpretation of the statements in Scripture. That being stated, I can believe whatever I wish simply because all answers are man's opinions.

Such a view of Bible authority and the Scriptures cannot be upheld or accepted. Peter wrote, "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" (II Peter 1:20-21 KJV). Peter emphatically denies the ideology of multiple correct interpretations. He states that every prophecy found within Scripture was put there for a specific reason and with a specific interpretation attached. Hence, there is no room left for man's personal inclinations on the matter.

Paul would confirm the intent of God in these matters by writing to the Corinthians: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10).

If all that is laid before man today is his interpretations and opinions on matters of faith, then it would be impossible for us to "speak the same thing." God, however, has never expected something from man which he knew would be impossible for man to achieve. Therefore, there must be a way in which man can understand the Bible to the degree of being "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

The Scriptures have been given to us for a number of reasons. They have been given for our learning (Romans 15:4), for their profitable nature in our lives (II Timothy 3:16-17), and that we might have all things pertaining to life and godliness (II Peter 1:3). Understanding the Bible is not a matter of interpreting the Scriptures for ourselves, it is a matter of letting God interpret things for us.

Within the pages of Scripture, God has defined every concept as he intended, and laid forth every commandment as he would have it carried out. Therefore, God has left no room for man's interpretations of the Scripture. The question is, will we agree with God?

It is of absolutely no value to give my interpretation of any passage of Scripture. If what I believe is not in accord with the overall writing of the Scriptures, it is erroneous. If it agrees completely with the entirety of Scripture, it is not my interpretation, but God has already given it. I have simply repeated the message. May we always remember the words of the prophet Amos when considering our approach to God and Scripture, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

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Sunday Schedule

Bible Classes	10 AM
Worship	11 AM
Worship	6 PM
Wednesday: Bible Classes	7 PM

Mission Works and Evangelism:

House to House/ Heart to Heart
Restoration Radio
Jim Waldron
Manuelito Children's Home



Bible Search

by Kenneth L. Thomas

Questions for week of September 21

Theme: planting seed by means of sowing

1. In scripture we read many references to planting seed by means of sowing. Find places in the Bible where other "planting" or scattering is used to describe a part of the process of being born.
2. Find places in the Bible where other "planting" or scattering is used to describe a part of the process of being baptized in the new birth.
3. Find places in the Bible where other "planting" or scattering is used to describe preaching the gospel and reaping material support (not in a parable)
4. Find places in the Bible where other "planting" or scattering is used to describe committing sin, wickedness.
5. Find places in the Bible where other "planting" or scattering is used to describe planting of (spiritual) light for good people.
6. Find places in the Bible where other "planting" or scattering is used to describe planting air movement as well as harvesting it in larger measure.
7. What happens after we die?

Answers for week of September 14

1. Who claimed to have no wealth, but through Jesus gave a man power to walk?

Answer: The apostle, Simon Peter

(Acts 3:1-11) "Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; 3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. 4 And Peter,

fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. 5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God: 10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him. 11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering."

2. What preacher went to get someone to come back in after he (that "someone") had suddenly left the room and interrupted the preacher's sermon?

Answer: Paul, when Eutychus fell out of the 3rd story window.

(Acts 20:7-11) "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. 8 And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. 9 And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. 10 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. 11 When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed."

Note: Some have questioned whether Eutychus came back in, and your question has merit. Verse 12 says: (Acts 20:12) And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted. The KJV does not say where "they brought" him. The pronoun "he" in verse 11 probably refers to Paul, but based on the fact Paul "fell on HIM", embraced HIM, and said

"HIS life is in HIM", one might argue that "HE" who came up again, broke bread, ate, and talked was Eutychus.

As you can see, modern translations are divided as to whether people "took him away", "took him home", or "brought him in".

Acts 20:12 (ESV) And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

Acts 20:12 (NIV) The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

Acts 20:12 (NKJV) And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

At any rate, Eutychus fall caused an interruption in Paul's long sermon, and Paul went to deal with the problem. (Someone said it was the preacher's job to "wake him" since he had put him to sleep!)

3. Who is not qualified to help a blind person find his way?

Answer: Another blind person. Mt. 15:14, Lk. 6:39

The spiritual application is that if one would lead, he must know how to find the right way. If we would teach, we need to prepare ourselves, or we will lead our hearers into error.

Matthew 15:12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? 13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. 14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Luke 6:39 And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?

4. Who was told to bury an accursed woman because she was descended from royalty?

Answer: eunuchs.

Two or three eunuchs loyal to Jehu were told to throw Jezebel down from a window. This being done, Jehu trode her under foot, went in, and ate and drink. The conversation continues and Jehu seems to be directing the same men, the eunuchs, to bury her. By the time they went to her, there was little left to bury.

2 Kings 9:31 And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? 32 And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. 33 And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot. 34 And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king's daughter. 35 And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. 36 Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: 37 And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.

5. When is it not acceptable to practice traditional activities?

Answer: When the tradition breaks God's commandments.

(When one becomes a Christian, it is often unsettling to realize that many of the "traditions of men" are totally contrary to the will of God.)

Mark 7:8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, [as] the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

Matthew 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, 2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. 3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. 5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; 6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. 7 Ye

hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,
 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: 11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with [him] through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Added info: a good article about tradition.

http://www.forthright.net/scriptures_speak/traditions_good_or_bad.htm

6. Who claimed to have avoided eating forbidden foods all his life?

Answer: The apostle Peter. He had just seen a vision telling him to rise, kill, and eat from a selection of unclean animals.

(Acts 10:13-14) "And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. 14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean."

Another reasonable answer:

Ezekiel 4:14 Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! behold, my soul hath not been polluted: for from my youth up even till now have I not eaten of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth.

7. Who claimed that he had never done anything that he thought was wrong at the time he did it, thus maintaining a pure conscience?

Answer: The Apostle Paul

(Acts 23:1) "And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

Beech Grove News, Prayer Requests

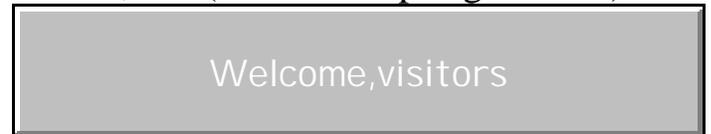
Laura Singleton is at the Manchester Medical Center room 313. William Miller is at NHC. Francis Cartright, Nancy Harvey's mother, is now in Boulevard Terrace nursing home in Murfreesboro. She was running a fever yesterday. Nancy Harvey is taking medication due to her knee injury and is still not sure what treatment will be given. Joe Green injured his back and is taking chiropractic treatment. Marie Crowell had day surgery this past week. Nell Mason, Iva Rose's sister is not doing well.

Our youth will participate in the Bible Bowl again this year. The course of study is Luke, and the first test will be on chapters 1-4 the first Sunday in October.

Ken and Judy and their four sons will be traveling this week to Parris Island, SC for the graduation of their grandson, Adam from USMC boot camp. They plan to leave on Wednesday afternoon and return on Friday.

4th Sunday Singing for Coffee County is at Beech Grove next Sunday afternoon.

Sept. 26 **Friday singings:** Carthage and Pinson, AL (5348 Old Springville Rd).



Last week: BS 22 MW 33 EW 28 Wed 14 Cont.\$1023

Assignments	September 21	September 28
Song leader (SS)	Wayne Gannon	Ken Thomas
Announcements	Junior Conner	Junior Conner
Songleader-Worship	Tim Waldron	Tim Waldron
Scripture reading	T J Waldron	Daniel Green
Opening prayer	Ken Thomas	Joe Green
Table service (center)	Joe Green	Wayne Gannon
(center)	Steve Miller	Ken Thomas
(outside)	Daniel Green	Junior Conner
(outside)	T J Waldron	Daniel Green
Closing Prayer	Junior Conner	James Mason