

Information and Reminders—

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Samuel Southall, and others with ongoing health battles or other trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians whom Satan will certainly attack (Matt. 13:20-23).

The men meet on the first Sunday of the month to discuss our work and duties. There is a sign-up sheet at the back for items needing their attention.

Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

- Can you post various Scriptures on our signboard during October? Sign up! (If a few of us sign up twice in a year or most of us sign up once, the list will be filled. Teachers, consider leading your class in doing this one month [*not* during class time])
- Our fall meeting with Wayne Goff is **September 22-27**.
- Our articles appear in *Arkansas Weekly* August 14, 28 this month. Many past and current articles are available at our website.
- Future gospel meetings: Brett Hogland (Spring 2014), Ron Halbrook (Fall 2014), Donnie Rader (Spring 2015), Jimmy Stevens (Fall 2015).

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

Church of Christ—Quail Valley
4104 E. Harrison St.
Batesville, AR 72501
Office- (870) 793-6700

Evangelist:
David Halbrook 569-4491

The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

August 18, 2013

WWW.QVCOC.COM

“MANY BOOKS.. ”

Jarrold Jacobs

In the long ago, Solomon said, “*And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh*” (Eccl. 12:12). Solomon’s words ring true today, don’t they? When we think of all the books in existence on this earth, the sheer volume is staggering! If we could calculate all books that have ever been written, surely it would be an amazingly high number. Perhaps one reason why there are so many books in existence is because many books have wrong information in them! Therefore, upon the publication of a book, another book is then written to answer or correct the error in the first book. Take note of the U.S. Tax Code, and the numerous books associated with just that one subject - these too are books that are “renewed” or changed each year! We might also consider the fact that as man continues to observe and study the world in which he lives, more books are written to document the findings that he had not seen before. Therefore, it is very easy to see how man can write so many books!

In contrast with the “*many books*” men have written through the years, consider the fact that God has only written 66 books under one cover! Within the Bible, we find the mind of God revealed to man (1 Cor. 2:10-13; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). This means that within the pages of the Bible are eternal truths which will lead us from earth to Heaven. Jesus said God’s word is truth (John 17:17), and this is still the case! God did not have to issue “revisions” of the Bible every few years, with changes or corrections to the text. It was complete and perfect from the time the ink was put to the scroll! Yes, men have written “many books” over the years, but God did not need to.

Within the pages of one sacred volume, we read of the creation of man (Gen. 1-2), of man sinning, and of the promise of a savior (Gen. 3). Within the Bible, we read of the establishment of a nation that would bring about our Savior (Gen. 12:1-3; Matt. 1; Luke 3). This volume teaches us about a Savior’s love and sacrifice, and what to do to

be saved from the sin that keeps us from a right relationship with God (Isa. 59:1-2; Matthew - John; Acts 2:38). Imagine, God's wisdom on these subjects, and many other subjects, are revealed to us within one small volume!

The beauty and wisdom of God's word is again seen when we consider the volume of commentaries men have written in the study of God's Book! How amazing and even ironic that what God states in a sentence or two in the Bible, men can dissect and write numerous pages concerning that statement(s) and its application. (This irony is not lost on this author! What are bulletins like this one but teaching tools, wherein God's word is dissected and taught? Further note that this entire article is based upon only one verse of Scripture!)

If God wanted, He could have written volumes and volumes of books for men to study. Yet, in His wisdom He gave us a book that can be read all the way through in a relatively short amount of time (60-70 hours on average). Let us thank God for His wonderful, life-giving, wisdom-producing, volume that teaches us what to do to be saved and prepares us for a home in Heaven.

CHRIST: A CRUCIFIED SAVIOR (PART 1)

David Halbrook

Our expectations can often be a hindrance to recognizing an opportunity. Maybe you've heard the story of the man stranded on his roof during a flood. He refused the help of rescuers in a boat and helicopter because he said he was waiting for God to save him. After he drowned, he asked God why He didn't save him, and the story ends as God explains, "I tried to help---I sent a boat and helicopter."

The world has never expected or looked for a king or savior like Jesus. He conquered His greatest enemy by dying. While His resurrection is the more glamorous part of His victory because it demonstrates His might and power, His death demonstrates other qualities rarely regarded in leaders---humility, submission, and love. Among Jews and Gentiles of the past and present, the kingship of Jesus was and is overlooked due to man-made expectations, so we must *preach Christ crucified* to our uninformed and rebellious generation (1 Cor. 1:23).

The Crucified Savior: Prophecy

Jesus often referred to Old Testament prophecies concerning His coming death. Prophecies were given by statements and types. By this, God was preparing men of the past for the crucified Savior to come and providing undeniable evidence for those who would live long after Jesus left the earth.

Isaiah 53 is among the most well-known prophecies of Jesus' death. Words such as *marred* (52:14), *stricken*, *smitten*, *afflicted*, *wounded*, *bruised*, *chastisement*, *stripes*, *grief*, and *offering* broadly tell the story of the Savior around seven hundred years before He came. No Jew, of his own volition, would have described *My Servant* as a *Man of sorrows* (52:13; 53:3). They thought that their King would give wounds, stripes, and bruises---not receive them! And if any Jew could imagine their Messiah bearing griefs or carrying sorrows, they would not have thought that to mean that he would bear the sins of others (53:4, 5, 12). His humility, submission, and love was unexpected. In God's providence, this chapter and book was preserved by the Jews even though it did not fit their expectations. (Psalm 22 is equally persuasive)

Types and anti-types are prophecies in the form of historical events. God gave water a role in saving Noah as a type of water having a role in salvation today (1 Pet. 3:20-21). Types show divine forethought carried out in the events of human history---an amazing demonstration of the sovereignty of God working with and despite the free will of man. For centuries, thousands of animal sacrifices were the forerunners of the *Lamb of God* (Jn. 1:29). The Passover, in which the blood of the lamb rescued Israel from death, was a tutor to bring the thoughtful reader to Christ. The demand that the Passover lamb's bones not be broken was a subtle type that explodes with meaning in John 19:36 to one who delights and meditates in the law of the Lord (Ex. 12:46; Ps. 1:2). The crucified Savior is the Savior of longstanding prophecy.

The Crucified Savior: Eyewitness Testimony Preserved

While our generation is often hypnotized by brief audio and video clips and bored by connected thought and reading, it is the written word by which we learn of the crucified Savior. Here the eyewitnesses join the prophets and together become a powerful team, convincing the world of Jesus' crucifixion.

Without their testimony being recorded and preserved, who else would tell us that He humbly refused to resist His arrest by the sword or legion of angels (Matt. 26:51-53)? How else would we know that He submitted in silence as a sheep before its shearers (Is. 53:7; 1 Pet. 2:23)? Who else could testify that from the cross (where even taking a breath would have been a painful struggle), the Savior spoke words of truth, love, and comfort (Lk. 23:34, 43, 46; Jn. 19:26)? Unless there were multiple witnesses who heard, saw, and handled the suffering Savior---who could believe in the crucified Christ (1 Pet. 5:1; 1 Jn. 1:1)? But God deserves praise today because with the words of prophets and eyewitnesses recorded among the *word of the LORD* which *endures forever*, who is there with integrity that can deny the crucified Savior (1 Pet. 1:25)?