

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

IN THE BEGINNING, GOD

The first book of the Bible is called Genesis because “Genesis” means “Beginning”

Everything you can see had a beginning at some point in the past. That is true of all physical things. (If there is an exception, please tell me.)

The book of Genesis tells us about their beginning, adding an important detail, “In the beginning, God...” (Genesis 1:1). Physical and human history begins with God already existing. Since God is spirit and cannot be defined by the laws of physics or nature, He has no beginning. In the Bible, God reveals that He is Jehovah, which means Self-Existent (eternal).

Why does this matter? Because all true knowledge begins here. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of

knowledge” (Prov. 1:7), even in a knowledge of science, history, physics, etc. Without including God in these fields of study, there will be many unanswerable questions. Modern leaders in these fields (potentially the professors teaching you, your children, or your grandchildren) often completely ignore and dismiss God’s part in the beginning. Yet the objects these people study and teach about **must** have had a beginning. What they choose to forget is that “in the beginning, God...” Do you have this knowledge or questions? Can we help?

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“SINFULLY DELICIOUS” HAMBURGERS

Friday, at the Independence County Fair, St. Mary’s Catholic Church advertised its “Heavenly Hamburgers” as “Sinfully Delicious.” I realize this is an attempt at humor, but is *everything* joke-worthy? Can you imagine Jesus selling sheep in Jerusalem, with a banner over His stand saying “Buy your lamb from the Lamb of God!”? If bomb jokes are not appropriate at an airport, why is “sin” something for a Catholic Church to joke about?

The irony is that until a change was made a few decades ago, all Catholics were forbidden to eat meat on Fridays. (Did you have fish regularly served on Fridays at school? That was done in consideration of this Catholic law) Think about that! The Catholic Church once said that it was literally, not jokingly, SINFUL to eat meat on Fridays, and now they are selling “Sinfully Delicious” hamburgers on Friday.

In 1 Timothy 4:1-3, the Holy Spirit warned of *doctrines of demons* such as requiring people to *abstain from foods which God created to be received...* Friend, this is serious. If this offends you, consider that Jesus identified religious hypocrisy and error (read Matthew 15, 23). Those who follow Him must imitate Him, boldly speaking words of truth and reason in love. For more study on this subject, read the related article at our website or call us and we will send you a copy.

FELLOWSHIP HALLS

When something happens at a fellowship hall, what does it usually involve?

If your answer to the above question is donuts, fried chicken, sports, and such then please read these fourteen verses (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 1:9; 10:20; 2 Cor. 6:14; 8:4; Gal. 2:9; Eph. 3:9; 5:11; Philip. 1:5; 2:1; 3:10; 1 Jn. 1:3, 6, 7). These are all of the New Testament passages which use the English word “fellowship” (in the New King James Version). After reading those passages answer these questions. Which passage(s) teaches--

1. Christians fellowshiping by gathering to socialize?
2. the church had fellowship by participating in sports? (People LOVED sports and theatre back then)
3. that fellowship includes eating our daily bread together?

Today, the word “fellowship” is used differently than it was used in the Bible. Bible “fellowship,” as seen in the above passages, focused on united spiritual work and only occurred between faithful Christians. For a more detailed study of this subject, visit WWW.QVCOC.COM (see “Topics For Study”). We want to hear your answers to the above questions or comments on this subject.

*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship...
(Acts 2:42)*

You are invited to:
Sunday AM
Bible classes: 10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible
Classes & Worship:
7:00 PM

BIBLE ROADS

Part of the evidence for the reliability of Scripture is that it is set in reality. Unlike the Book of Mormon, which is full of people and places unknown to any record of history, many of the people and places cited in Scripture are commonly known and some can be visited. I recently visited a Chicago museum which displayed a Canaanite idol, an entire section devoted to the Hittites (who Bible skeptics once denied ever existed), and replicas of artifacts, one naming the Israelite king Hezekiah and the other picturing the Israelite king Jehu. The Bible setting is human history not human imagination.

The theme of our 2012 Summer Bible Series this year was **Bible Roads**. We studied Bible events and the roads on which they occurred to better understand the people, places, and personal lessons God intended for us to learn from them. These classes emphasized spiritual learning and education, not entertainment and physical recreation as is common in modern “VBS”s because we are trying to build the faith of young and old (eating cookies does not build faith!). As you learned in the article on “Fellowship Halls,” eating and playing is unrelated to the spiritual work God has revealed. If you did not come to our Summer Bible Series, we offer Bible classes for ages 2+ (including adults) every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Come and learn with us.

Questions from this month's articles:

1. What is the key to true, meaningful knowledge?
2. What was one of the doctrines of demons that Paul warned of?
3. After reading those fourteen verses, what activities are associated with fellowship in Scripture?
4. Name two people of the Bible, also found in other historical records/artifacts.

* Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501
OR, e-mail your answers to TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website WWW.QVCOC.COM