

In Our Prayers...

**Requester's name is in parentheses*

Sarah Willmon (Nathan Wheeler) – Sarah Willmon of Farmington church of Christ was hospitalized last Sunday for severe abdominal pain. Attempts to diagnose were continuing throughout the week. She experienced slight improvement according to her husband, Fred.

Alford Hannah (Joe Puckett) – Alford has suffered complications from an attempted bypass in his leg. Insurance is creating a roadblock to further care.

Melinda Black (Susie Puckett) – Melinda (Susie's cousin) was released from the hospital but must stay in San Antonio while they monitor infection.

Matt Sims (Debbie Sutherlin) – Debbie Sutherlin's cousin, Matt, has been in treatment in a Phoenix hospital for extreme infection.

Ongoing Health Concerns — Lyle Provost; Shirlean Johnson; Jim Beaver; Miriam Rodriguez; Vashara; Ken Williard's daughter-in-law; Yolanda & Judy Woody; Cailin Porter; Bobby Arnett; David Frederick; Rick Hales; Bill Harrell; Josh Martin; Karen Crowson; Terry Wells.

Door for the Word – Pray for relationships with the lost that lead to opportunities to talk about Jesus.

Announcements

Potluck Sunday Please make plans to participate in our potluck fellowship today. We will share a meal together immediately following morning worship assembly.

Work Day at the Church Building Saturday, October 10th, beginning at 8 am we will work on some chores around the church building. Our main focus will be on finishing the exterior paint on the education building.

The church of Christ in Durango

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Service Times

Bible Study
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

Worship
Sunday 10:20 a.m.



How Should We Read the Bible?

By Nathan G. Wheeler

The American Restoration Movement encouraged Christians to read the Bible carefully and use “common sense” in understanding it. The hope was that if everyone simply followed what the Bible clearly teaches, Christians would eventually agree and be united.

But our experience has shown that things are not quite that simple. Disagreements about Scripture do not always happen because someone refuses to obey what the Bible says. Sometimes the Bible itself communicates on several levels. In fact, some of its richness comes from the fact that God intended it to say more than one thing at once.

Consider a small example from Judges 3. Ehud tells King Eglon that he has a “message” for him. But the Hebrew word can also mean “thing.” Ehud's message turns out to be a very literal “thing”: a sword! The Bible sometimes uses words and events in ways that invite us to look more deeply.

Jesus taught his apostles that the Old Testament ultimately points toward him, the gospel, and the mission of bringing

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forgiveness to the world (Luke 24:44-48). Paul says that the Old Testament was “written for our instruction” (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:6). So Christians have good reason to ask not only, “What did this passage mean then?” but also, “What does God want us to hear through it now?”

Christians have traditionally recognized at least four ways Scripture can speak to us.

First, there is the historical meaning. We ask, “What did the human author mean when he wrote this?” Moses, for example, tells us about Israel crossing the Red Sea.

Second, there is application. We ask, “How does this passage speak to us today?” Paul connects Israel's experience at the Red Sea with Christian baptism (1 Cor. 10:1-2). The story of Israel can therefore teach us about following God through the spiritual wilderness of the world today.

Third, Scripture points us to Christ. We ask, “How does this passage help us understand Jesus and the gospel?” The Old Testament repeatedly prepares us to recognize God's ultimate work of salvation through Christ. The victory at the Red Sea, for example, can remind us of Christ's ultimate victory over the powers of evil (Isa. 51:9-10; Col. 2:15).

Fourth, Scripture points us toward our ultimate hope, our eternal home in Heaven. Israel was delivered through the Red Sea so that they could enter the Promised Land. The New Testament uses that history to help us understand our hope of entering God's final rest (Heb. 4:11).

Because the Bible was written by human authors but inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21), we should expect its message to be rich and multi-layered.

At the same time, we must not simply invent meanings that we would like to find. Our reading of Scripture must remain centered on Jesus, according to the way the Apostles taught us to understand him. The right interpretation will lead us toward God's glory, strengthen our faith, and help us become the kind of people Jesus calls us to be.

Sermon Notes

Weekly Bible Reading Schedule

September 21	Mon	Jeremiah 40 – 43
September 22	Tue	Jeremiah 44 – 47
September 23	Wed	Jeremiah 48 – 51
September 24	Thur	Jer 52 – Lamentations 3
September 25	Fri	Lam 4 – Ezekiel 2
