

In Our Prayers...

**Requester's name is in parentheses*

Ryan Patrick (Debbie Sutherlin) – Ryan has been on our prayer list for a few weeks due to severe liver disease. He passed away last Wednesday.

Lyle Provost (Kim Provost) – Kim Provost's brother, Lyle Provost, had a successful brain surgery and is now receiving cancer treatment.

Miriam Rodriguez (Larry McKesson) – Larry & Keitha's neighbor has been put on the liver transplant waiting list. She is also showing early signs of dementia.

Ongoing Health Concerns — Vashara; Ken Williard's daughter-in-law; Yolanda & Judy Woody; Cailin Porter; Bobby Arnett; David Frederick; Rick Hales; Bill Harrell; Joe Shattuck; Josh Martin; Karen Crowson; Terry Wells.

Brad & Sarah McGlothlin (Nathan Wheeler) – Brad and Sarah, of Oklahoma City, plan to begin studies at Bear Valley this fall.

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

Announcements

August Potluck The August potluck fellowship will be next Sunday, August 23rd.

Silverton Singing The Silverton Church of Christ is hosting the August 5th Sunday singing on Sunday, August 30th at 4:00 pm. More details to follow soon.

September Cookout Kenny & Debbie Sutherlin are hosting a cookout fellowship at their Vallecito house. Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 19th, beginning at noon.

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.



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Read the Bible for God's Purpose

By Nathan G. Wheeler

If your spirituality has been formed in Churches of Christ then you are part of a very practical tradition. We tend to be most concerned with the question, "What must I do to please God?" That is an important and a faithful question, and we rightly turn again and again to the Bible to answer that question.

When we study the Bible to discover what God wants us to do for him we have been taught to consider what rule each verse of the Bible might hold for us. Our method to this end is to look for a command, an example, or something that is clearly implied by the biblical text (also known as a "necessary inference"). Whatever we discover there is then "binding" as a God-given rule for us to observe.

One of the problems with this approach is that the books of the New Testament were not written to provide Christians with rules to follow.

Bible books that clearly were written for the purpose of providing rules for God's people to follow are Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The New Testament books that are

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Read the Bible for God's Purpose

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the closest in purpose and content are the Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John present the life and teachings of Jesus in such a way that readers might recognize Jesus as the new "Moses," the God-ordained lawgiver for the people of God.

The Book of Acts is an historical record of how the good news of Jesus spread from Jerusalem to Rome. There are many important lessons Christians can take from Acts, but lawgiving for the Christian community was not Luke's (God's) purpose for writing it (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-2).

The twenty-one letters and epistles of the New Testament (Romans — Jude) all have portions instructing Christians to think and act in certain ways. Even so, those instructive portions are not the primary purpose for which any of those documents were written. 1 Corinthians is arguably the most prescriptive when it comes to instructing Christian ways of living. Yet in that work Paul is clearly dealing with issues that are specific to the Christians in Corinth.

Ephesians provides a good example of what is generally true of the apostolic letters. The first half of the letter teaches theological truths of the gospel of Jesus. The second half prescribes Christian behaviors that result from believing those truths. Furthermore, across the letters practices prescribed that apply to all Christians everywhere are spiritual and moral qualities such as love, forgiveness, and faith.

Churches of Christ participate in the heritage of the American Restoration Movement from the early nineteenth century. The two great motivations of that Movement were and are 1) to unify Christians as one community in Jesus Christ, and 2) to pursue this unity according to the Bible.

If we are looking for rules where none are being written, then we cannot claim to have heard God's word in the New Testament. As good students of Jesus let us read the Scriptures according to God's purposes in having written them through faithful, spiritual men.

The Church that Jesus Builds

Luke 9:46–50

- The Builder of the Church is _____ .
- Two Features of the Church Jesus Builds
 1. One, Big _____ Table
 2. The _____ Says, “Jesus is Lord”
- Conclusion: Learn from the Apostles’ misunderstanding:
 1. Let respect for Jesus’ name _____ us.
 2. Respect everyone Jesus welcomes to his _____ .

Weekly Bible Reading Schedule

August 17	Mon	Ecclesiastes 6 – 9
August 18	Tue	Eccl. 10 – Song of Sol. 1
August 19	Wed	Song of Solomon 2 – 5
August 20	Thur	Song of Sol. 6 – Is. 1
August 21	Fri	Isaiah 2 – 5