

# THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

*Visit our Website at [www.foresthillchurch.org](http://www.foresthillchurch.org)*

## **Forest Hill Church of Christ**

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### **Elders:**

Anthony D. Callahan  
Floyd M. Hayes  
Harold D. Mangrum  
Leonard Watson

### **Minister:**

Barry M. Grider

## **VISIT US SOON!**

### **Sunday:**

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Worship.. ...10:30 A.M.  
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

### **Wednesday:**

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

## **HOME OF MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING**

### **Missions Supported:**

Iglesia de Cristo Memphis  
Kakinada, India  
Manila, Philippines  
Murmansk, Russia  
Far East/World Evangelism  
In Search of the Lord's Way

Volume 32

June 1, 2004

Number 22

## **“UNDERSTANDEST THOU WHAT THOU READEST?”**

Andy Cates

The Ethiopian nobleman was interested enough in God's Word to read the Scriptures as he traveled. What a privilege it is to have access to the very Word of God, the Creator of the universe and of man! And, God has always blessed the person who has an open bible and a receptive heart. As the nobleman read from Isaiah, Philip ran to him and asked, “*Understandest thou what thou readest?*” (Acts 8:30).

**The possibility of understanding the Scriptures.** In His love and mercy, God has made His Word understandable to man. Were the Bible not understandable, it would be a reflection on God. It would reflect on His goodness if He could but would not make it understandable; it would mean He is not infinite in goodness. Man can understand the saving Word of God. Jesus himself said, “*And ye shall know the truth, and truth shall make you free*” (John 8:32).

There are some who would say, “You understand the Bible one way and I will understand it another way.” That is not possible. If two people are not in agreement on the teaching of the Word, at least one of them does not understand the Scriptures and perhaps neither of them. If two people understand the Scriptures, they understand them alike. Truth is harmonious, never contradictory.

**The importance of understanding the Scriptures.** We are commanded to understand. “*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is*” (Eph. 5:17). Our being judged according to the Word (John 12:48) necessitates our understanding the Scriptures. Terrible consequences will result from misunderstanding the Bible. In life, tragedy is often the result of misunderstanding. Because of a misunderstanding, many lives were lost in the sinking of the Titanic. How tragic, but even more disastrous was the loss of the souls of people on board that ship who misunderstood God's Word. It is a far greater tragedy to misunderstand that which pertains to our souls (Matt. 16:26) than to misunderstand anything in life relative to the physical.

Understanding the Scriptures and having the hope of salvation brings true and lasting happiness. When the nobleman obeyed the Gospel, “*he went on his way rejoicing*” (Acts 8:39). This is a perfect portrayal of our Lord's words, “*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly*” (John 10:10).

**The essential elements to understanding the Scriptures.** We must recognize and reverence the Bible as God's inspired Word. “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God*” (2 Tim. 3:16). A person may be caused to read the Bible out of curiosity or out of a desire to be critical, but the individual who knows the Bible best is the one who accepts it as the inspired Word of God. The Bible is God breathed; that qualifies it as profitable.

To know Truth, it is necessary to have an honest heart and a sincere desire to know Truth. Honesty toward God's Word is opposed to the “so what” attitude which is held by many, and also to the mind that is prejudiced toward Scripture. “*Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice to let Israel go?*” (Exo. 5:2).

We are to obey every commandment of God's Word (Matt. 7:21-23; Jas. 2:10; 1John 5:3; etc.), not just those parts that we want to obey, that agree with our choice of lifestyle. We are not to take the “buffet” approach to the bible. Christ said, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*” (Matt. 4:4). The Ethiopian nobleman was honest in searching the Scriptures. He was determined to find and understand Truth. Understandest thou what thou readest?

(Andy preaches in Tuscaloosa, Alabama)

**Forest Hill Church of Christ**  
Adult Classes  
Summer Quarter, 2004

<u>Location</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Topic</u>
<b><u>Sunday Morning</u></b>		
Auditorium (A)	Curtis Cates	1&2 Thessalonians
Chapel Hall (E)	Barry Grider	<u>Successful Christian</u> <u>Living in Today's World</u>
Room 201 (E)	Andy Ammons	Church Growth

**Wednesday Night**

Auditorium (A)	Keith Mosher	Hebrew History
Chapel Hall (E)	Greg Mangrum	<u>Christ in the Home</u>
Ladies Classroom (A)	Melinda Thompson	<u>Choosing</u> <u>Life's Best</u>
	Myra Martin	

A – Auditorium Building  
E – Educational Building

Ms. Patrica Gibbons  
*and*  
Mr. *and* Mrs. Cantrell  
request *the honor of your* presence  
*at the*  
marriage *of* their children,

*Bridget*  
GIBBONS

*and*

*Sean*  
CARRATT,

*on*  
Saturday, *the* 19th of June  
*at* 7 o'clock  
*at the*  
Forest Hill church *of* Christ  
Memphis, Tennessee

*reception following*

The Elders of the Forest Hill  
Church of Christ and Faculty of the  
Memphis School of Preaching  
Memphis, Tennessee

Join Mr. And Mrs. Curtis A. Gates

In requesting the pleasure of your presence

At the

Commencement Exercises and Reception

In honor of the Graduates on Sunday, the twentieth of  
June

Two thousand and four

Reception: 2:00-3:00 p.m.  
Forest Hill  
Fellowship hall.

Graduation: 6:00 p.m. at the  
Forest Hill Church of Christ  
3950 Forest Hill Irene Road

Guest Speaker: Kenneth Gossett of Jonesboro, Arkansas

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**JULY 14-18**  
**FOREST HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**THEME:**

**"WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS FROM GOD  
BECAUSE..."**

MONDAY: ...Because of the round world  
TUESDAY: ...Because of the paths in the sea  
WEDNESDAY: ...Because Life is in the Blood  
THURSDAY: ...Because of Fossils / Dino-  
saurus  
FRIDAY: ...Because of the fulfillment of  
prophecy about Jesus

**9:30—11:45 DAILY**

**Submitted by brother Bert Embry.**

This is the list of things that has happened in Iraq recently:

- Over 400,000 kids have up-to-date immunizations.
- School attendance is up 80% from levels before the war.
- Over 1,500 schools have been renovated and rid of the weapons stored there so education can occur.
- Girls are allowed to attend school.
- Textbooks that don't mention Saddam are in the schools for the first time in 30 years.
- The port of Uhm Qasar was renovated so grain can be off-loaded from ships faster.
- The country had its first 2 billion barrel export of oil in August.
- Over 4.5 million people have clean drinking water for the first time ever in Iraq.
- The country now receives 2 times the electrical power it did before the war.
- 100% of the hospitals are open and fully staffed, compared to 35% before the war.
- Elections are taking place in every major city, and city councils are in place.
- Sewer and water lines are installed in every major city.
- Over 60,000 police are patrolling the streets.
- Over 100,000 Iraqi civil defense police are securing the country.
- Over 80,000 Iraqi soldiers are patrolling the streets side by side with U.S. soldiers.
- Over 400,000 people have telephones for the first time ever.
- Students are taught field sanitation and hand washing techniques to prevent the spread of germs.
- An interim constitution has been signed.

Don't believe for one second that these people do not want us there. I have met many, many people from Iraq that want us there, and in a bad way. They say they will never see the freedoms we talk about but they hope their children will. We are doing a good job in Iraq and I challenge anyone, anywhere to dispute me on these facts. If you are like me and very disgusted with how this period of rebuilding has been portrayed, email this to a friend and let them know there are good things happening.

Ray Reynolds, SFC  
Iowa Army National Guard

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
MEMPHIS, TN

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